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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should FICA taxes be deducted from foreign workers in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.



INSIDE



Pilot Shortage

Fast-growing Asian airlines are scrambling to find enough pilots to fly their new airplanes.

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Nude Photos

Pakistani actress Veena Malik accuses a popular men's magazine of doctoring photos to make her look nude.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

'NMI could learn from A. Samoa'

Proposed bills seek improved status for legal long-term aliens

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Leaders of worker groups in the CNMI said Monday that CNMI leaders could learn from an American Samoa official's intention to allow long-term foreign workers to apply for U.S. national status, citing their socio-economic contributions to the U.S. territory.

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Inos: Pay FICA taxes now unless there's change

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said yesterday it will be better for employers to comply now with an Internal Revenue Service

- Chamber advises members of Nov. 28 effective date
- Ernst & Young mirrors Deloitte's position on FICA taxes

letter on the applicability of Federal Insurance Contribution taxes among Filipino workers in the CNMI to avoid penalty, and just seek a refund later if IRS changes its position on the applicability of

See INOS on Page 4

House panel to seek OPA review of PSS execs' alleged cash out of annual leave

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House Committee on Education will be seeking the Office of the Public Auditor's help in ferreting out the truth about some Public School System officials' alleged cashing of their annual leave.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) tasked Committee on Education acting chair George Camacho (Ind-



Cabrera

Saipan) to get to the bottom of the issue, which includes asking OPA to look into the allegations raised by some PSS employees and teachers against PSS officials that include Education Commissioner Rita Sablan.

Camacho separately said yesterday he will be writing a request letter to OPA.

Cabrera appointed Camacho as acting chair of the Education

See HOUSE on Page 4

Another fire breaks out

Another fire broke out on Saipan, this time engulfing a house in Kagman III early Sunday morning.

No one was reported hurt in the blaze that burned down a small tin and wooden house.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said the case is under further investigation, although fire investigators believe that a lit mosquito coil triggered the blaze.

Tarkong said that firemen responded at 2:27am after receiving a call about the fire. When firefighters arrived at the scene, the house was already engulfed in flames.

Tarkong said a 54-year-old man who lived in the house was not injured.

Last Nov. 17, three fires broke out in San Antonio, Chalan Piao, and Chalan Kanoa.

The first fire broke out in San Antonio around 7:45am, razing to the ground three houses and one store.

As firefighters were clearing up between 9:30am and 10am, another fire occurred at the abandoned former Stardust Nightclub in Chalan Kanoa-Chalan Piao area. No one was

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NEW TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, third left, and Department of Public Works Secretary Martin C. Sablan, third right, lead yesterday's ribbon cutting ceremony for the signalization of the San Vicente/Dandan junction, which marked the completion of Phase 1 of the Cross Island Road & Drainage Improvement. Fully funded by the Federal Highway Administration, Phase 1 of the project had a price tag of \$7.4 million. See story on Page 6

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Ex-teacher aide stages protest to demand rebate's release. **PAGE 2**
Donation period opens for 'Toys for Tots' program. **PAGE 3**

Local

Brooks stages lone protest to demand rebate's release

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An outgoing Koblerville Elementary School student teacher and former teacher aide staged a solitary protest near the Division of Revenue and Taxation office in Dandan yesterday, urging the office to expedite the release of his tax return.

"Just give me my tax return," Keith Brooks, who held a cardboard sign that stated, "I need my tax return now," told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Outgoing Koblerville Elementary School student teacher and former teacher aide Keith Brooks holds a cardboard sign outside the Division of Revenue and Taxation office in Dandan to urge the office to expedite the release of his tax rebate. Originally from Las Vegas, Brooks is expecting some \$1,500 in tax rebate.

Brooks staged his protest along the road since he may be arrested if he did it right outside the division as the building sits on a private lot.

The Dandan resident, who is expecting some \$1,500 on his 2010 tax rebate, said he already wrote to the division a month ago asking for the immediate release of the check due to "personal reasons that the division is made aware of."

But Brooks said the division did not respond in writing nor did it return the numerous phone calls he made.

Brooks, who is originally from Las Vegas, said even his previous tax return "took 18 months to get to me."

The lack of response from the division, Brooks said, prompted him to seek the assistance of the office of the lieutenant governor.

"I had to get the lieutenant governor's office involved. They're

trying to call the division daily but they won't respond or answer the phone," he said.

Being a student teacher for three months, Brooks said his savings was used for his daily subsistence. Now he only has \$300 in his bank account.

Brooks disclosed that he also plans to stage a protest at the Department of Finance office on Capital Hill.

According to Brooks, a lot of people talked to him or gave him a thumbs-up sign during his one-hour protest yesterday. One woman even offered him a ride to Garapan, he added.

Asked how long he will stage these solitary protests, Brooks replied, "Until I starve to death or get my tax money."

Brooks urged other community members, especially those with emergency reasons, to ask for their tax rebates and refunds.

Senate's initial take: Bill will hurt Fund

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that the Senate's "initial sentiment" is that a House bill allowing non-retired members of the NMI Retirement Fund to withdraw their contributions without severance of employment or penalties "will hurt the Fund."

House Bill 17-226, introduced by House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), passed the House on Thursday by a vote of 11-7.

Manglona said a Special Committee on Retirement Fund issues chaired by Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) will review this bill and make recommendations to the full Senate.

He said the committee may call witnesses, including Fund officials and retirees.

"As I said, our initial sentiment is that this bill will hurt the

Fund, that we should not pass the bill at a time when we're trying to save the Fund," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview yesterday.

Manglona echoes the sentiment of the Fund that HB 17-226 will hasten the demise of the pension agency.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) vehemently opposed the bill's passage during the House session on Thursday, and hopes that the Senate will vote down the bill.

But Joseph M. Pangelinan, a government employee, said there are at least 823 signatures in support of the bill. Some 400 more signatures mostly from Public School System employees are expected, bringing the total signatures to over 1,200. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

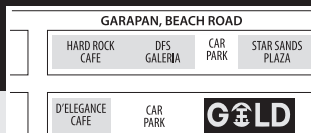
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Donation period opens for 'Toys for Tots' program

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Community members who want to bring the Christmas spirit to life for children under the care of Karidat Social Services can now donate toys for them starting today.

Karidat executive director Angie V. Guerrero said they have partnered with the Society for Human Resource Management for this year's "Toys for Tots" program.

The annual program was sponsored by Wells Fargo for several years before the financial services company closed down its Saipan branch. Last year's program was sponsored by Marianas Health Services.

"I approached the [SHRM] and they accepted the invitation," Guerrero said in a news briefing yesterday.

Guerrero disclosed that a total of 71 children on Saipan, with ages ranging from 0 to 10, are expected to benefit. She noted that it is "complicated" to provide gifts to children 11 years or older as most of them ask for gadgets.

Guerrero said those who

Two suspected 'ice' suppliers fall; suspect claims police beat him up

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Two suspected suppliers of methamphetamine or "ice" were arrested on Saipan Monday night, and one of the two suspects who had injuries on his face told the Superior Court at yesterday's hearing that police beat him up.

Jun Qing Cheng, 36, and Yu Hua Wang, 34, both jobless Chinese nationals, were arrested for trafficking of a controlled substance, possession of controlled substance, and resisting arrest.

Associate judge Joseph James Norita Camacho imposed a \$60,000 cash bail for each suspect. Preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 12 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg was appointed to serve as counsel for Wang, while the court will appoint a private counsel for Cheng.

Assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll called to the witness stand detective Dennis Reyes who narrated to the court how they were able to buy \$200 and \$400 worth of "ice" from Cheng and Wang in two operations.

Reyes said that 4.45 gross grams of "ice" worth \$7,000 was involved as they also recovered more methamphetamine from one of the suspects' cars.

The detective said that when they tried to pull over the suspects' vehicles in Koblerville and San Antonio, the suspects were uncooperative and resisted arrest.

When Camacho asked about Cheng's bandage on his face, Reyes said that Cheng was tackled to the ground for re-

sisting arrest. Cheng, through an interpreter, told the judge that he will sue for police brutality. Camacho told Cheng he has that right, but that he needs to hire a lawyer to do so as it would be a civil matter.

Toy donations will be accepted until Dec. 21 before Karidat officially hands the donation to the beneficiaries. "It gives people two weeks' time to donate," said Guerrero. "If you're really willing to give, you will give even if it's only one-day notice."

Donated toys should be marked for what gender and age to enable them to match the toy with their existing clients. The donated toys, Guerrero emphasized, could be educational and need not be expensive.

"It's not the amount but it's the gesture that you're giving. I hope people can really be generous with whatever they can afford because I know everybody is struggling," she said.

Guerrero is optimistic that they will reach their target number of toys. "Despite the hardship, people still have the spirit of giving in this holiday season," said Guerrero, adding that Hyatt Regency Saipan already committed to doing the Toys for Tots for Guma Esperansa clients.

For more information, call Guerrero at 234-5248 or 6981 or SHRM president Polly Masga at 237-5122.

After they receive the donated toys, Guerrero said they will call the children's parents to pick up the toys and wrap them so that their children would think that they got the toys from their own parents.

"We involve the parents also and empower them. Every parent wants to give their children something for Christmas. This is really a beautiful gesture from all those who would be donating," she added.

Guerrero said this year's Toys for Tots will only benefit Saipan since shipment is a challenge for them to send toys to Tinian and Rota. However, any extra toys they have will be shared with other organizations who also care for children such as the Division of Youth Services.

Guerrero is optimistic that they will reach their target number of toys. "Despite the hardship, people still have the spirit of giving in this holiday season," said Guerrero, adding that Hyatt Regency Saipan already committed to doing the Toys for Tots for Guma Esperansa clients.

For more information, call Guerrero at 234-5248 or 6981 or SHRM president Polly Masga at 237-5122.

A wish for an end to violence, abuse

The executive director of the premier social service arm in the CNMI expressed hope yesterday that there will be an end to all the violence and abuse issues in the CNMI.

Angie V. Guerrero of Karidat Social Services said that violence, abuse, and burglary cases are on the rise during the holidays and the beginning of the school year due to the financial stress it gives people.

But Guerrero noted that

victims of domestic violence coming out in the open is an upshot of the awareness campaign against it.

"We're doing more awareness campaign, giving people the courage to come out. It's unfortunate but it shows that people feel they're protected, that there are agencies and organizations that could help them come out of this situation," she explained.

Guerrero also noted that burglary cases have now affected

churches, which were unheard of in the past. "Is our economy that bad that people turn to stealing?" she asked.

Notwithstanding these issues, Guerrero said, "There is still something good in the community... good deeds among community members is a very good sign."

When asked about her wish for the holidays, Guerrero said: Good health, prosperity for the new year ahead, and unity and peace among people.

"I wish people the best of everything," she added. (Clarissa V. David)

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Central govt fails to remit \$1.7 MVA allotment

»Carryover liabilities from last fiscal year amounts to \$1.1M and may increase

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The central government failed to remit the Marianas Visitors Authority's full appropriation last fiscal year, resulting in the carryover of some liabilities that were supposed to have been retired before the end of fiscal year 2011.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio and the agency's chief accountant, Donnie James Militante, disclosed to Saipan Tribune yesterday that the agency received only \$4.2 million last fiscal year—short by \$1.7

million to satisfy the \$5.9 million allocation approved under the budget act last year.

Tenorio said this resulted in the agency incurring \$1.1 million in liabilities to vendors last fiscal year that's been carried over to this fiscal year.

"Last [fiscal year] 2011, we operated way below the ceiling authorized by the budget act... and we're still waiting for the remaining \$1.7 million to be remitted this year. We're going to use this amount to retire the carryover liabilities we incurred last fiscal year," said Tenorio.

He said the leftover obligation will not impact or affect the agency's current budget because this will be paid for using the unremitted allotment. He said carryover liabilities amounts to \$1.1 million as of Oct. 17. This means that some billings for last fiscal year are not yet included in the amount.

For fiscal year 2012, MVA has an approved budget of \$6.3 million, of which 83 percent goes to the agency's advertising and promotional expenses. The remaining 13 percent will be split among personnel sala-

ries, utilities, building rental, professional services, and other expenditures.

According to Militante, the \$6.3 million budget is broken down as follows: \$1.040 million for personnel; \$1.135 million for operations and all others; and \$3.855 million for advertising and promotions.

The government projects revenue to reach just \$102 million this fiscal year.

Despite the government's volatile fiscal state, both Tenorio and Militante are confident that MVA will not operate in

a deficit and do not anticipate any shortfall, unless the government revises its overall revenue projection and change the MVA's allocation.

Tenorio said the agency has been faithful in implementing its budgetary plans to ensure that it continues to operate based on its mission priorities.

He said MVA is committed to maintaining its offshore offices in Korea and Japan, which are considered the CNMI's main source markets and accounts for 70 percent of overall visitor arrivals.

Tenorio said MVA is cur-

rently operating under baseline mode, which means it is operating as needed to ensure offshore offices are open and accessible to travel partners and potential visitors while refraining from expending large capital in marketing and promotions.

"We still have our offshore offices in these two main markets, but what we've done is operate on a baseline [mode] because of the funding situation—just making sure that we have opened an office that will receive inquiries from these key markets," he added.

NMI

From Page 1

American Samoa Delegate Eni Faleomavaega is proposing two pieces of immigration legislation, including one that amends provisions of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act to allow foreigners who have been long time legal residents of American Samoa to apply for U.S. national status.

Bonifacio Sagana, president of Dekada Movement, said that had CNMI officials looked at the positive impact on the local economy of allowing legal long-term foreign

workers to have improved immigration status, the local economy would at least fare better than it is now.

The original federalization bill contained a provision to grant improved status for long-time foreign workers in the CNMI but the CNMI government opposed this and the provision was later removed.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said that while Faleomavaega's proposals have yet to be introduced in the form of bills, the "good intention is there to recognize the need to allow long-term foreign workers" to apply for U.S. national status.

Syed said he would ask CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan to look into his American Samoan counterpart's proposals.

"The intention is to cover all legal long-term aliens in American Samoa. I wish there's a plan to do the same for all legal long-term aliens in the CNMI. If the American Samoa delegate could propose it, I don't see any reason why the CNMI delegate couldn't do it and hold public hearings about it," Syed told *Saipan Tribune*.

Faleomavaega was quoted by *Samoa News* as saying in his weekly radio program that he will hold a public fo-

rum on his proposals to gather public opinion.

"Whether you agree or disagree with these proposals, I would like to hear from you," the American Samoa delegate was quoted as saying.

In August, Faleomavaega sent a copy of the draft legislation to American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono and all members of the Fono (American Samoa's Legislature) for their input and suggestions before a decision is made whether to introduce the measure in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Faleomavaega, according to *Samoa News*, explained that the proposal would grant U.S.

national status in three categories for longtime residents in American Samoa and one category for any person who has continuously lived in American Samoa since the age of 5 or under and has graduated from high school.

Current law allows only those born in American Samoa or who has a parent born in American Samoa eligible to become U.S. nationals. The same is true in the CNMI.

"However, Faleomavaega has said this does not do justice to some 4,000 longtime residents that have lived continuously in American Samoa for 20 years or more, paid taxes to the

American Samoa government, donated to their churches and contributed to American Samoa society in many ways," *Samoa News* said.

Faleomavaega pointed out that this is not going to be an easy issue if the bill is introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives because there is already much controversy in the United States surrounding millions of illegal immigrants living across the country.

The second proposed bill would allow U.S. nationals living in American Samoa to apply from the territory, directly to the federal government, for U.S. citizenship.

INOS

From Page 1

these taxes on previously exempt foreign workers.

FICA covers Social Security and Medicare taxes.

"My advice is to comply [with IRS] and then turn around and file for refund [if there's any change from IRS] as opposed to just not complying because non-compliance carries civil penalties," Inos told Saipan Tribune in an interview during the ribbon cutting for new traffic lights in San Vicente yesterday morning.

Douglas Brennan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, also said yesterday that "until such time evidence is offered to the contrary, foreign nationals employed in the CNMI prior to Nov. 27, 2011, and previously exempted from paying FICA taxes by bilateral agreements with the U.S., would now fall subject to individual and employer FICA tax contributions."

This means affected employees will be subject to FICA withholding for wages earned on and after Nov. 28.

"SCC has advised the date of this change in practice would be Nov. 28, 2011," Brennan said in a statement, after the Chamber reviewed the Department of Treasury/IRS memo, as well as an advisory from Deloitte & Touche.

Lance K. Kamigaki, partner at Ernst & Young, also advised clients yesterday that FICA taxes apply to Filipinos working in the CNMI unless they have a valid H-2 visa.

Joe M. Arnett, tax partner-in-charge for Guam/Micronesia's Deloitte & Touche LLP, was the first to issue a statement Thursday on the FICA taxes' applicability among Filipino workers in the CNMI based on an IRS letter dated Oct. 6.

Brennan said after further comment by tax consultants, the Chamber believes the IRS would issue a more formal notice with guidance on reporting

procedures "very soon."

"SCC has initiated action to meet with CNMI Social Security Administration officials to seek further clarification also," said Brennan.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members.

"There are a number of additional problems that may arise from this CNMI FICA change in practice. SCC believes there may be Filipino nationals working legally in the CNMI now without the benefit of a valid Social Security number. What would those employees, and employers, face as a result of this IRS announcement?" Brennan said.

He added that the Chamber will further advise its membership as soon as they get further clarification.

The IRS letter of Oct. 6 made no mention of the applicability of FICA taxes among Koreans working in the CNMI.

There are different views whether Korean workers in the

CNMI were supposed to be exempted from the FICA taxes to begin with, even before the implementation of federalization. Different IRS documents and statements in past years also contained different information.

Even the U.S. Government Accountability Office, in a July report, said it's unknown whether Filipino and Korean workers in the CNMI are covered by Social Security taxes if they obtain CNMI-only work permits.

Affected employees and employers have different views on the FICA taxes and their impact on their salaries and business operations. They said these taxes are an added cost during these tough financial times.

Inos, a former Finance secretary and who has decades of experience in finance, said the applicability of FICA taxes as stated in the IRS letter came as a surprise.

He said the administration is taking up the matter with federal officials.

"The main concern here is

essentially, it is an additional cost to doing business for the employers. Number two, what kind of benefits employees will get as a result of their contribution? We're reviewing it," Inos said.

The acting governor said foreign workers are "temporary workers per se and any contribution that they make right now...they won't be able to get refund."

He said it is "not fair" for these workers who are now being asked to contribute and not benefit from these contributions.

Inos also said foreign workers who are just now covered by the FICA taxes will need to contribute for 40 quarters or 10 years before they could benefit from it.

On Monday, the Fitial administration described as "troubling," "inappropriate," and "discriminatory" the administrative decision to lift the exemption of Filipino, as well as Korean workers in the CNMI, from paying FICA taxes.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said in view of concerns

about the taxes, the Fitial administration believes that the administrative decision "should be stayed pending clarification that the Fitial administration is preparing to request from the Social Security Administration."

For a Filipino worker earning a minimum wage of \$5.05 an hour, the monthly FICA tax deduction will be over \$45 a month. Employee's FICA contribution is 5.65 percent of their salary.

This deduction consists of 4.20 percent for Social Security, and 1.45 percent for Medicare. This is also on top of the CNMI taxes that foreign workers pay.

For employers, this means an additional expense of almost \$62 a month in employer's share for every employee required to pay FICA taxes. Employer's share is 7.65 of the employee's salary—6.20 percent for Social Security, and 1.45 percent for Medicare.

The FICA tax payments mean that a business with 15 Filipino workers earning minimum wage, for example, will incur an additional expense of over \$24,000 a year.

HOUSE

From Page 1

Committee, following Rep. Ray Palacios' (Cov-Saipan) resignation as panel chair because of drug-related charges against him. The speaker has yet to appoint a new committee chair.

Cabrera, in an interview, said he himself started receiving calls from some PSS employees two

to three weeks ago, sharing their concerns about PSS officials' cashing out of annual leave. He said these calls came in long before the same allegations got printed in the *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the PSS employees he talked to felt that it's "unfair" that PSS officials go against the system's own policy of allowing the cashing out of unused annual leaves if they are separated from the system.

But Cabrera pointed out that all these claims about PSS officials' conduct are still allegations until and unless a formal review has been conducted.

Cabrera said he will also do his own review of the CNMI government budget, to see whether the alleged cashing out of annual leaves is "budgeted" or "appropriate." He also wants to find out whether the Board of Education ap-

proved of such cashing out of annual leave.

He said if the claims made by PSS employees against PSS officials turn out to be true, then there should be accountability and further review of policies.

Former Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison also raised the same issue with the Board of Education, and asked for the board's investigation on the matter.

ANOTHER

From Page 1

injured in both incidents.

At about 8pm, a third blaze engulfed an unoccupied commercial building across Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

No one was reported injured

in the fire that razed the interior of a one-story concrete building owned by Niizeki International Saipan Co. Ltd.

Sources said investigators were looking into possibility that the fires at the Niizeki building and at the former Stardust Night Club were intentionally set off. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Off-island scholars appeal for release of delayed checks

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Scholars of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program continue to appeal for the release of their much delayed scholarship checks, fearing that they may not be able to enroll next semester or be ejected from their apartments due to unpaid bills and other obligations.

SHEFA receives up to 60 calls everyday from scholars—many of whom are from off-island—

all pleading for the release of their checks, which have been pending for many months.

The Department of Finance last disbursed checks to SHEFA scholars in August 2011, totaling \$148,000.

SHEFA administrator Henry Hofschneider confirmed yesterday that his office is still awaiting word from Finance as to when the next batch of checks will be disbursed.

Records show that close to \$1 million in scholarship grants



Hofschneider

For the fall 2010 semester, 16 checks are still pending, totaling to \$75,200. These are for the Framingham State University students. SHEFA also returned four checks worth \$5,600 for

have yet to be disbursed to recipients covering three academic terms.

some correction for the same semester. For the spring 2011 semester, 12 checks have yet to be released, totaling \$13,400. For this fall 2011 academic term, 512 students are still waiting for their checks. The total award for this period is \$852,000.

Overall, SHEFA grants that remain pending total \$946,200, covering both on-island and off-island scholars.

According to Hofschneider, parents and families of affected scholars have also been

expressing frustration over the delayed assistance for their children.

He said he is worried about the situation of many students who may not be able to enroll next semester and those who are facing eviction from their apartments if they don't get their checks soon. He said many colleges and universities in the U.S. mainland have already started their registration period for the next semester.

"The students are pleading

and begging for their checks because they want to use it for enrollment and I truly understand their situation. But I have no choice but to explain to the scholars about the government's situation," said Hofschneider.

Checks for SHEFA scholars are sourced from poker fees and license fees collected by the government. Each fiscal year, the Legislature appropriates \$3 million for SHEFA programs.

House OKs Faloma and Maleina bill »1 Senate initiative, 1 other House bill also passed

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed yesterday an amended bill requiring schools to notify parents within two hours after a child is recorded absent to help in the recovery of children when they go missing, almost seven months since the disappearance of sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk on May 25.

The House also passed yesterday two other measures: a Senate initiative authorizing the Board of Regents to revise the Northern Marianas College's mission statement, and a House bill subjecting liquid fuel distributors and retailers to the regulatory jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission.

By a vote of 14-0, the House passed Rep. Teresita Santos's (Ind-Rota) House Bill 17-200, House Draft 1 or the Faloma and Maleina Parent Notification Act of 2011.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Under the bill, if a child is absent and the school has not been notified, a member of the office

staff shall contact the parent or legal guardian "no later than two hours after a child is recorded absent or as soon as possible, whichever comes first."

It says if there is no answer at home, the emergency number of or the parent or legal guardian's place of business or work will be called in an attempt to reach the parent or legal guardian.

The House also passed by a vote of 15-0 Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro's (Cov-Saipan) H.B. 17-238, HD1, subjecting "liquid fuel" distributors and retailers to the regulatory jurisdiction of PUC.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) made a floor amendment to also include "liquid propane." Members adopted this floor

amendment.

Right now, PUC has jurisdiction over public utilities, telecommunications companies, and cable television companies.

Former representative Diego Benavente, who was in the gallery when the House voted on the bill, said he's concerned that when this bill becomes law, it may result in higher costs of fuel.

The House also passed Senate Legislative Initiative 17-12 by a vote of 15-0. The initiative

seeks to amend Article 15 Section B of the CNMI Constitution to authorize the Board of Regents to revise NMC's mission

statement. The initiative is on its way to the Commonwealth Election Commission for voter ratification.

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December 10, Saturday

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Christmas in the Marianas Festival is back

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's traditional holiday event, the Christmas in the Marianas Festival, is back this year after being suspended in 2010 due to funding constraints, according to Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio yesterday.

Tenorio said that participants in the yuletide song and dance competition have already met in San Antonio to prepare for the activity.

"We're very interested in doing the festival this year and, as a matter of fact, our program

manager is meeting today the representatives of the schools who will participate in the Christmas caroling contest," he said.

This year will mark the ninth year of the contest, which usually draws hundreds of spectators to witness children celebrating the holiday season through caroling, dances, and float presentations.

The float competition may, however, not happen this year due to some still unresolved concerns such as logistics. A decision on the matter will be known this week.

Tenorio believes that the parade, as part of the float competition, is one of the best ways to share

the spirit of the holidays with tourists.

Based on initial information, seven schools have already confirmed their participation.

Tenorio said the event is temporarily slated for Dec. 17 at the American Memorial Park and will involve hundreds of children parading from the Carolinian Utt to the park.

Saipan Tribune learned that MVA sets aside \$12,000 each year for the event. The lack of funding in fiscal year 2011 prompted its suspension.

"This time we were able to plan ahead and our chief accountant [Donnie Militante] was instrumental in the budgeting for this activity.

This program has been budgeted and it is within our expenditure plan this fiscal year 2012," said Tenorio, who declined to discuss the amount allocated for the program this year.

MVA is appropriated \$6.3 million under the current budget law. About 83 percent of that goes to the agency's advertising and promotional activities.

The festival's last grand prize winner in 2009 was Koblerville Elementary School. It will defend its title this year.

Winners of the competition are awarded cash prizes that mostly go to the students' immediate needs in school.

Traffic signals at San Vicente-Dandan junction unveiled

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Motorists driving through the cross island road in San Vicente and Dandan can now do so safely with the activation of its

traffic signals on Friday.

A ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday marked the completion of the San Vicente/Dandan junction traffic signal project, a component of Phase 1 of the Cross Island Road &

Drainage Improvement by the Department of Public Works and funded by the Federal Highway Administration.

Hawaiian Rock Products served as the contractor for Phase 1 of the project.

Hofschneider Engineering, LLC did construction management while Henry K. Pangelinan & Associates, Inc. did the architectural and engineering design.

Phase I, which begins near the San Vicente-Dandan intersection and ends at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Super Blue Tank in Papago, had a price tag of \$7.4 million.

Yesterday's ceremony, attended by government officials and contractor representatives, was held outside the DPW office in the area and was led by acting governor Eloy S. Inos and DPW Secretary Martin C. Sablan, who also celebrated his 58th birthday yesterday.

Fr. Rey D. Rosal, San Vicente parish priest, did the invocation.

"This project is one of the many projects that this administration has completed for the purpose of enhancing economic development and providing easier access to residents and businesses alike, especially for those in San Vicente all the way to Kagman," said Inos.

He noted that the project,

which began in 2005 with the awarding of the architectural and engineering design, ran into "unforeseen problems" such as the rainy season and delayed shipment of materials, inconveniencing residents and motorists alike.

"We had inconveniences but we see that in the end, what we have is an improved infrastructure that will allow for safe and easy access to residents and businesses alike," said Inos. "That's a major accomplishment and this administration continues to do that in many areas such as power, water, and sewer."

One of the project's snags, Inos said, was knocking down the roundhouse at the junction, which had "a lot of sentimental value" associated with it.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), who was at yesterday's ceremony, said he was among those who initially opposed the demolition of the roundhouse as his grandfather had helped build it.

Cabrera said that people's safety, and not the inconvenience that the road project caused, is "a more important issue" and that the project "will benefit the Commonwealth as a whole."

This was echoed by DPW Secretary Sablan: "There's a lot of things that were an inconvenience for the residents of San Vicente. However, when you weigh the safety factor and the inconvenience, I think we need to proceed with the improvement on our highway."

Sablan, in an interview af-

ter the ceremony, said another major challenge for the project was finding unrecorded CUC water lines.

Working with CUC and other government agencies, including private entities such as IT&E, expedited the project's completion. "This is something that we need to be pleased about because we're trying to improve our infrastructure on island," added Sablan.

Highway administrator Sonya Pangelinan-Dancoe, for her part, said that DPW is "relieved" to finally open the traffic lights as the area is "critical," given that schools and churches are located nearby.

"It was our goal and our priority to make sure that this section is prioritized and it's opened as soon as possible," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Up next is the completion of the Phase 2A component of the project, which starts from the Super Blue tank to the Kagman intersection by the Mobil gas station.

"We look forward to completing that. We have been moving pretty quickly," Pangelinan-Dancoe said.

GPPC is the contractor for Phase 2A; it is expected to be completed in another three to four months.

Pangelinan-Dancoe also disclosed that the construction of Phase 2B—which starts from the Kagman intersection to Capital Hill—is expected to begin in January or February 2012.

"There's going to be multiple things going on in this stretch of road but we feel that this is vital for the economy," she added.



MVA

MTEC SCHOOL OUTREACH

Sixth-grader Jessica Andobor of Koblerville Elementary School, center, wins a waterpark pass for two during the Marianas Tourism Education Council's presentation at the school on Nov. 21, 2011. MTEC and the Marianas Visitors Authority are visiting elementary schools this school year to educate students on the importance of the tourism industry. Also pictured are MTEC member Catherine Perry, left, and MTEC chair Vicky Benavente.

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NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Transfer Shelter

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for a Conditional Use permit. The Saipan Mayor's office Dog Control Program is proposing to operate a Dog Transfer Shelter on lot 012-H17. This area is located in between Casilda and Konsolacion Streets behind the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa.

Date: December 14, 2011
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, December 13, 2011. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID IFB NO.: IFB12-OHS-001

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 04, 2012 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF FOURTEEN (14) JERSEY BARRIES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION - CHALAN KIYA SUBSTATION"

PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS MAY RETRIEVE A COPY OF THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THE INVITATION FOR BIDS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY SITE VISIT WILL BE HELD ON **DECEMBER 12, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M.** AT THE CUC CHALAN KIYA SUBSTATION.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. CARL DELA CRUZ, OHS PROCUREMENT OFFICER BY E-MAIL TO ohs.delacruz@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2011.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
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SBA awards \$30M for trade and export promotion

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free training today on selling internationally

John Holman, director of the Pacific Islands Hawaii Export Assistance Center, will be conducting a free workshop today, Dec. 7, 2011, on how local businesses can sell internationally. The seminar, which will be held at the American Memorial Park Museum's VC Room, will be from 9am to 11am and will cover current trends, opportunities, and resources available to exporters.

Pacific Islands Hawaii Export Assistance Center is a division of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Commercial Services. The mission of the Commercial Service is to assist local companies in selling their products or services in international markets.

Contact Linda T. Cabrera at the CNMI SBDC at 664-3018 or email linda@pacificsbdc.com to register for the event.

The same training will also be held on Tinian tomorrow, Dec. 8, 2011, at the Tinian Public Library, from 9am to 11am. Contact Phillip Mendiola-Long at the Tinian Chamber of Commerce at 433-2664 or email registration@TinianChamber.com to register for the event. (PR)

Chamber meeting today at Fiesta

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly general membership meeting today, Dec. 7, 2011 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Hotel in Garapan, Saipan. Luncheon will begin at 11:30am, and the general membership meeting will be called to order at 12pm.

Speaking to SCC's membership at the luncheon will be the newly appointed chief executive officer of the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., Juan N. Babauta, who will make a presentation on what will be accomplished as a result of the creation of the corporation.

SCC will also be hosting its Student Exploration Day, and the 57 students being sponsored by SCC members will be attending the luncheon as well. A special guest will be introduced to the audience after the students are introduced. Luncheon is \$15 for SCC members; guests and non-SCC members are charged \$20. (SCC)

Rev & Tax to conduct workshop for employers

This is to advise all employers that the Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance, will be conducting a workshop for the Annual Wage and Salary Statement, Form (W-2CM) for tax year 2011 and other 2011 year-end filing requirements. The workshop will be on Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011. The first seminar will be from 8am to 11am and the second session will be from 1pm to 4pm at the Department of Public Lands conference room in the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center. Businesses, employers and all payroll service companies are encouraged to attend. Confirm your attendance by calling the administration office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation at 664-1000 or via fax at 664-1015. (PR)

DEQ brigade seeks volunteers for cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality monthly cleanup brigade is deviating from its regular 1st Saturday of the month schedule and has scheduled its December cleanup on Dec. 17, 2011, picking up trash at Old Man by the Sea, Saipan. The beach is littered with float and jet-stream trash and it needs our help so DEQ is asking for more volunteers to join this particular cleanup.

If you would like to volunteer, please meet the DEQ representative on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 8am along the road heading to Kingfisher Golf. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade T-shirt. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. (DEQ)

Mañagaha gets green flag

The Division of Environmental Quality analyzed water samples collected from Managaha's recreational beaches and dock this week as part of the regularly scheduled sampling. None of the samples collected contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality standards. Therefore, DEQ assigns all of the sampled beach sites a green flag.

The division analyzed a total of 11 samples from Managaha this week. DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. (DEQ)

STEP initiative will help small businesses export

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Small Business Administration is providing \$30 million in grants to states, territories, and the District of Columbia, to help increase exporting by small businesses during the next 12 months. The grants were authorized by the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, under the State Trade and Export Promotion Program, or STEP.

The STEP program, launched in March, aligns with President Obama's National Export Initiative. The initiative calls for doubling U.S. exports in five years—and in so doing, supporting two million jobs. The

program provides federal government funding for 65 to 75 percent of program costs, with states supplying the remainder.

SBA administrator Karen Mills announced the awards on Monday at an event in Raleigh, N.C., at Raleigh Denim, a small business that produces and exports denim products. Forty-seven states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands received STEP grants.

"Strengthening the nation's economy through a substantial increase of U.S. exports is a top priority for the administration

and the agency," said Mills. "This is a unique partnership between the federal government and the states. Sharing responsibilities and resources will help new small exporters across the country enter and succeed in the global market."

The funding will support participation in foreign trade missions, foreign market sales trips, subscriptions to services provided by the Department of Commerce, website translations fees, design of international marketing media, trade show exhibitions, participation in training workshops, and other critical export initiatives.

Small businesses that want to receive assistance under the STEP program should contact the organizations serving the states in which they are located. For a list of these organizations and more information about the STEP program, visit <http://www.sba.gov/about-offices-content/1/2889/resources/14315>.

The SBA anticipates it will conduct a new competition for STEP program grants during the winter of 2011. Awards will be made in September 2012 for export support services by states over the following 12 months. (SBA)

Holiday Season Impaired Driving Month

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Campaign

November 27, 2011 through January 3, 2012

**BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING AND FRIENDS
DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.**

**BAM! YOUR
LIFE JUST
CHANGED.**



**Have a Safe
Holiday Season!**

Drive drunk and you will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.



Woman on trial for immigration fraud

The jury trial of a woman charged with immigration document fraud began Monday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom in the afternoon, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona was still selecting the ju-

rors who will decide the fate of Rowena Agnes Urumelog.

Saipan Tribune learned that a jury was impaneled later in the afternoon and assistant U.S. attorney Beverly McCallum and defense attorney Mark Hanson completed their

opening statements. McCallum also called the prosecution's first witness.

According to the indictment filed on Sept. 22, on July 6, 2009, Urumelog filed a petition for an alien relative, on which she said no when asked whether

she had ever petitioned for Abdullah Al Mamun or another alien. The defendant allegedly knew that this was false in that on Jan. 22, 2003, she filed a petition for an alien relative for her then-husband, Md. Jahangir Alam. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



WELL DONE!

Congratulations to Daniel Borja Salas on your graduation from Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts, Portland, Oregon. We wish you all the best! Greetings come from your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Board members of the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance recently completed a strategic action planning session facilitated by the representatives of The Nature Conservancy, an international organization whose mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. From left, Ryan Okano, MINA board member; Frankie Eliptico, MINA vice chairperson; Leilani Deleon Guerrero, MINA staff; Kid Cabrera, Micronesia Challenge intern; Sam Sablan, MINA executive director; Mae Adams, TNC; Herminia Fusco, MINA chair; Ron Smith, MINA secretary; Lina Dimaano, MINA treasurer; Bill Raynor, TNC; Fran Castro, MINA board member; and Joe Taijeron, MINA board member.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Rhian Napu Dela Rosa Borden! We love you so much! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, and the Aguon, Borden, and Sablan families.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Job Vacancy Announcement (No. 12-02R) LITIGATION COUNSEL

OPENING DATE: December 7, 2011
CLOSING DATE: Until Filled

The NMI Retirement Fund is seeking one or more professional and motivated individual(s) to work in a challenging environment as a Litigation Counsel for the Fund. Salary range is \$50,000+ depending on relevant experience. Benefits are commensurate with the responsibilities assigned to the successful candidate and in compliance with the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Interested applicants must submit their **application, resume, Certificate of Good Standing (from the CNMI or a state court), and police clearance.** The complete package is available from the Fund, located on Capitol Hill, Saipan; or by e-mail through the Fund Administrator. **Mailed and hand delivered packages must be marked "JVA 12-02R Confidential," and must have the applicant's name and return address on the outside of the envelope.**

Richard S. Villagomez
Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com



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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, December 9, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. in the ARFF Classroom, First floor of the Pacific Region ARFF Training Center, at the Saipan International Airport.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes (November 10, 2011)
- II. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS**
 1. Personnel Matter
 2. Adoption of Procurement Rules and Regulations
 3. Tinian International Airport A/E Design Amendment No. 3
 4. TSA Office Renovation Change Order No. 3
 5. Air Force newspaper article
 6. Christmas Party Report
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- V. ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

MANUEL P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Chairman, Board of Directors

December 6, 2011

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 7, 2000

Bill to lure retirees to govt service awaits Senate OK

Legislation aimed at enticing retirees to return to government service is awaiting action by the Senate as lawmakers hope the proposal will address shortage of teachers and nurses on the islands. If it becomes law, H.B. 12-231 will exempt retired government employees who have availed of the early retirement bonus from paying back the benefit once they decide to work again in the public sector. The proposed waiver will be an incentive to them since many are reluctant to return to government service precisely because of the requirement, according to lawmakers.

Independent public lands office welcomed

House Vice Speaker Alejo M. Mendiola yesterday welcomed the decision by the governor to sign into law the bill he had sponsored creating an independent agency that will administer all public lands in the Northern Marianas. Public Law 12-33, approved the other day by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, forms an Office of Public Lands out of the present Board of Public Lands and Division of Public Lands to give the crucial agency more autonomy under the Executive Branch. Mendiola said this is necessary to ensure that decisions regarding use of public lands will not be compromised, noting that the Department of Lands and Natural Resources secretary who had authority over the two agencies could implement policies inconsistent with that of BPL.

Dec. 7, 2001

Group Health saves 51% from HMO

The government's insurance arm, Group Health and Life Insurance Co., has realized a savings of 51 percent since Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral Inc. began handling its off-island medical referral services in September this year. According to Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund legal counsel Kathleen Troy-Rucker, Group Health has managed to incur a savings of \$284,000 on its bill charges covering the period from September 1 to November 29. "It's incredible. And we're hoping that it's going to be that significant every month because, for the initial time frame that we have looked at so far, that was much better than we had anticipated and had hoped for," said Troy-Rucker.

US Army asks tighter security on Tinian

The United States Army has requested officials of the Tinian International Airport for additional security in line with its confidential mission on the island. Tinian Ports Manager Ed Sanchez said the military requested for security at the airport without citing any specific reasons. He said the request was forwarded last week following reports of the scheduled visit of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees. Commonwealth Ports Authority Board Member Ray Cing, on the other hand, disclosed that discussions are ongoing, adding that details of the talks remain sealed. Cing explained that the mission is being kept under wraps, and that only top officials of the CNMI government has been specifically informed.

Dec. 7, 2002

NMI, Guam mayors briefed on bioterrorism, available funds

Three CNMI mayors and seven from Guam met yesterday for the first time on Saipan to attend the federally sponsored conference on terrorism preparedness. Conference host Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela said the conference was a good start for all the mayors amid the global threat of terrorism. "We discussed a lot of things. It's a good seminar for all the mayors. We're trying to make sure that everything goes well in this area," Tudela said. He said the mayor's office, in essence, will coordinate with all other concerned government agencies, particularly the Governor's Office and the Emergency Management Office, on preparedness efforts. "We have to be alert," he added.

Attao: Land claims settlement money to jumpstart economy

House Floor Leader Jesus T. Attao is looking forward to the end of a decade-long effort to settle with Commonwealth landowners who have had lands taken over the years for roads, right-of-ways and other purposes. Although the current settlement would cover only about 60 percent of the outstanding land compensation claims, Attao said that accomplishing this would speed up the resolution of the rest of the claims. He stressed that successful payment of the land claims will be much more than a windfall for landowners or the estates of landowners who never saw payment for their loss of property during their lifetimes.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-12-003

Urgent Repair: Fuel Tank Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Piping, Rota Power Plant

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified contractors or firms for the Urgent Repair of Fuel Tanks Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Piping, Rota Power Plant, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The tanks have been cleaned and undergone API inspections and they are not currently in use. The piping or part of the piping may still be in use and they would be emptied by CUC and handed over for the necessary work through a mutually arranged schedule with the winning contractor. Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the consent decree noted as Stipulated Order No. 2 (SO 2).

The Scope-of-Work and Proposal package will be emailed, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set, upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working days, from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM local time, until December 9, 2011.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a mandatory site visit is scheduled for **November 28, 2011 at 10:30 AM (ChST)** at CUC Rota Power Plant No. 1, Songsong village, Rota to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) Original and Seven(7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**RFP-12-003 – Urgent Repair: Fuel Tank Nos. R 1, R 3, R 4 & Pipeline, Rota Power Plant**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 15, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

The Offeror is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

A Proposal Guarantee of 15 percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposers. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposers. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code, with the proposal.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 (ChST) on December 9, 2011**, to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement & Supply Manager via email at msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Mika Muna via email at mika.muna@cucgov.org; Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Project coordinator SO 2 via email at venu@cucgov.net and Mr. Edward Chargulaf, Technical Manager for Oil via email at ed.char@cucgov.org.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the interest of the government.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-12-004

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC GENERATION (Phase No. 2)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced Independent Power Producers (IPP) to supply electrical energy and other products generated from commercially proven Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) systems for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from suitably qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one, or more, respondent(s) to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install generation PV facilities that best fit the CUC requirements. Selected IPPs will be responsible for operating and maintaining all facets of the Generating Facility (ies) and for generating the required output as described in this RFP. The scope of services requested in this RFP shall include, but not be limited to, securing sites, all permits and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully operational Generating Facilities.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **December 01, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**, at CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Center in Saipan.

One (1) original and Six (6) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-004 **Solar Photovoltaic Generation (Phase No. 2)**" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **December 16, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **December 09, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org; and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via address email.wallon59@yahoo.com. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID

NMHC IFB 2011-012



This ad is paid with HUD Funds by NMHC

Ground Maintenance Services for NMHC's Properties in Tinian

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide ground maintenance services for its properties in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan and at its Field Office in San Jose Village, Tinian, beginning Monday, November 21, 2011, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office located in the Juan King Building in San Jose Village on Friday, December 9, 2011, at 10:30 a.m.. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivision and other properties owned by NMHC to be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visits are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements, and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-ITB 2011-012**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time December 19, 2011**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, December 19, 2011**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **December 19, 2011**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **December 28, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **8:00 a.m., local time, December 29, 2011**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time on December 19, 2011**.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

The Commonwealth Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined by the government to be in its best interest. All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

For information, call the NMHC Office in Tinian at 433-9213 or the Central Office in Garapan Saipan, during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply



**Northern Marianas
Humanities Council**
Navigating the Human Experience

Vacancy Announcement

Program Officer

Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) is soliciting applications for the position of Program Officer. The Program Officer is responsible for developing and implementing a variety of humanities programs and events and coordinating the Council's Community Grants program under the supervision of the Council's executive director and board of directors. A detailed description of the Program Officer's duties may be obtained from the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai or from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Applicants for this position must possess: (1). strong analytic, writing and communication skills; (2). knowledge of grants writing and grants administration; (3). the ability to work effectively with people from diverse backgrounds; (4). a working knowledge of NMI history and of current political, social and economic issues confronting the local community; (5). basic computer skills including knowledge of MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint; and (6). the ability to articulate the Council's mission to a wide range of audiences.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) in a humanities discipline from an accredited postsecondary institution. The salary range is from \$35,000 to \$40,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits are set forth in the NMICH Personnel Policy Manual.

Interested individuals are invited to send an application package including: (1). letter of interest; (2). detailed résumé; (3). a writing sample (500-800 words on a humanities topic of your choice); and (4). the names and addresses of three references to Scott Russell, Executive Director, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Box 506407, Saipan, MP 96950. Complete application packages must be received by Council staff on or before 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2012. For more information about this employment opportunity please contact Council staff at 235-4785.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is an equal opportunity employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

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Pacific Islands News Association

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles TimesDoyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.

Tough guys on illegal immigration

I believe in the idea of amnesty for those who have put down roots and lived here, even though some time back they may have entered illegally."

That was Ronald Reagan speaking during his 1984 re-election campaign. After that election, he stuck to his guns, signing an immigration reform law that allowed illegal immigrants to apply for residency if they could prove they'd lived in the country for five years, held jobs and committed no crimes. The law also called for tougher border enforcement, but its primary effect was to provide 3 million people with a path to legalization, and many of them eventually became citizens of the United States.

Reagan would have been pilloried if he were running for his party's presidential nomination today.

Recent weeks have seen a furious battle among the GOP candidates over who can take the hardest line on immigration.

It began in September, when former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney attacked Texas Gov. Rick Perry for having granted in-state college tuition to the children of illegal immigrants in Texas. Then, last month, Romney attacked former House Speaker Newt Gingrich over his support for a plan that would grant temporary work permits—but not a path to citizenship—to illegal immigrants who had lived in the United States for 25 years.

Rep. Michele Bachmann jumped into the fray promising that, if elected, she would try to deport every one of the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in the country. Perry, still smarting from his college-tuition gaffe, said he'd seek more deportations too, as did former Sen. Rick Santorum, who added: "I don't like to break up families, but ... we're not sending them to Siberia. They're going to Mexico, which is a great country, a nice country."

And Gingrich, though he didn't walk back from his once-conventional, now-bold proposal for work permits, made it clear that he was talking only about immigrants with deep roots in their communities—church members, grandparents—and that he still favors a fence on the U.S.-Mexico border and vigorous enforcement of the law.

The spectacle has provided a perfect illustration of the perils of trying to debate national policy in a primary contest that focuses on a few conservative voters in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

The candidates are narrowcasting. They're jostling for the right edge of the platform, and they think that GOP primary voters, especially in Iowa and South Carolina, are very attentive to immigration.

One of Romney's first mailers in Iowa boiled down his pitch to this: "The strongest Republican to beat Barack Obama and end illegal immigration."

But there's a flaw in this approach.

To begin with, it's not what American voters are asking for, not even the bulk of Republican voters.

A Fox News poll last year found that almost two-thirds of Republicans believe that "illegal immigrants who pay taxes and obey the law" should be given a chance to remain in the United States under some kind of legalization program. A majority also favored tougher

See TOUGH on Next Page



EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A day that will live in infamy

War victors write history. Happily, historiography in time allows analytical consensus and a broad ownership of communal wisdom. Thus, Dec. 7's Day of Infamy 70 years ago that lifted U.S.' emotions to militant heights, a masterful instance of great literary coinage, has historians judging the attack on Pearl Harbor to be not surprising nor unmitigated. The geopolitics of oil in the last century makes it very clear that the black fluid on the ground is more than just a smudge on the garage floor as it has been the *raison d'être* of imperial nation-states.

Oil and the combustion engine in war proved to be a volatile combination. England's admiralty gave up coal for oil to become the world's most powerful Navy in 1912. The German Reich's industrial power produced quality steel but Westminster settled for wealth in financial books. Resource poor Germany courted the Ottoman Empire's resource, finding black gold in Basra while surveying a highway to connect to Bonn. But England and France in the 1916 Sykes-Picot Agreement divided the Ottoman lands between them, frustrating the German empire's building designs.

Two thousand years before, Zoroaster revered the eternal fire from natural gas, British surveyors with the Shah of Iran in 1908 hit petroleum fields that proved to be the most critical resource to England when the Guns of August was triggered by the Sarajevo assassination of Franz Ferdinand of Austria. World War I between the Allies (Britain, France, and Russia) and the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy) was over power, fueled and decided by access to oil.

The "seven sisters" (now only four) inked the Achnacarry (Scotland) agreement of 1928, the first oligopolistic commercial control on the price and the production of oil.

Dealing with unreliability

Government is unreliable in most instances. Said the late and highly respected economist Milton Friedman: "If you put the federal government in charge of the Sahara Desert, in five years there'd be a shortage of sand." On the islands, we give our tax contributions to the local government in hopes of improving essential public services.

It has gotten worse and will continue to worsen for as long it spends our taxes with wasteful impunity. What then if bankruptcy engulfs the CNMI? We face the other side of the Pacific Divide and intone, "Our Father."

■ ■ ■ ■

Promises, promises, promises

Ever listened to pointless verbiage spewing out of the mouths of disoriented politicians at a public forum? Through the years, I've met most of them as they nervously tidy up to head out to the campaign trail. Strange how many aren't even sure of the role of policy-making but still forged ahead to satisfy their insatiable appetite for power. It's all about power, nothing else!

Indeed, I've spent many years among king-making meetings, flushing out excess baggage while keeping the cream of the crop. Even in the final selection of the best, there's one prominent feature among the troops: an attitude of superiority that fizzles instantly when cornered to explain issues or even their platform. What am I talking about? The obvious lack of understanding that robs them of believability and voter connectivity. And voters are wary of your statement, where you failed them, the failure to connect.

Admittedly, it's hard staying focused when it's your first time up on the mound. Like they say, it's the loneliest place on earth; how true the stage fright that devours newcomers. Most end up listing down their "to do list" without explaining them. Leaving the stage dazed, the speaker forces a smile as the crowd slowly shakes its head in polite disbelief at the mumbles and stumbles the candidate just displayed, frightened to his wits.

One of the speakers retorted, "I asked you last night if my statement was coherent and simple and you said 'yes.'" I shot back, "Sorry, the beer and sashimi was tastier than your ramblings." He was bewildered by my reaction but told him to review his materials

Historian Samuel Elliot Morison writes in *The Rising Sun in the Pacific* that the U.S. oil embargo order of July 1941 "made war with Japan inevitable," resulting in a "general impoverishment" economy threatened with insufficient oil for "normal domestic consumption." Japan's Meiji, already heading toward empire with its *hakko ichiu* (one Asia) philosophy, and a Manchukuo migration policy to the non-Han Qing dynasty domain, was too dependent on U.S. oil; the embargo practically put a noose on Japan's neck, daring it to plunge its own *katana* (samurai's short sword) into ignominious *seppuku*.

Japan's military and Zaibatsu (precursor to today's Keiretsu), instead, designed a self-sufficiency plan by accessing China's coal resources and reaching out to the Dutch East Indies' BP held oilfields.

The U.S. Pacific naval fleet stood in the way. Harvard-educated Admiral Yamamoto of the Imperial Navy, ironically the master navigator into Oahu's sugarcane fields and Pearl Harbor, was opposed to the China incursion and aggression against the U.S., vis-a-vis the aggressive and rambunctious members of the Imperial Army that consigned the Navy to troop carriers and plotted the 1931 Mukden incident in Manchukuo. A schizoid Japan in 1941 went *tora, tora, tora* into Aloha, and the knowledgeable quietly hid their tears while obediently engaging in the misplaced *banzai* exercise.

Wall Street acts like London's financial district at the British empire's sunset years. With Washington in its pocket, it lulled a society into thinking that consumption is fulfillment in a suburban home with a two-car garage, adults talking on their Androids while monitoring the movements of 2.5 children watching HDTV, all paid for by the phantom wealth of its institutions' in oligopolistic control of the worlds' financial system.

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



so he gets it second nature before he heads to the stage. As a veteran of the mike, I know what the neophytes go through other than don the aura of superficial VIP that fails to demonstrate their wares.

Sometime it's fun introducing candidates if only to watch them roast themselves to oblivion. Seen it all and still maintain that the truth is far more instructive than all the vacuous platitudes and promises from the mouths of neophytes.

■ ■ ■ ■

Types of politicians

There are politicians who are sharp with figures and use it to do various calculations. Others are fluid in crafting words to present their views. Still others lack both, though it's strange that some ably made it to first base almost effortlessly.

The one who specializes in numbers crunching could actually analyze a budgetary package and see the fallacies and inconsistencies in the figures compiled by bureaucrats. They'd rip the pile of papers apart and demand for a more accurate accounting of figures.

The word crafting specialist could instantly detect the illogical explanation given by alleged experts and would pin them with follow-up questions until the experts wither in humiliation. They even listen to your diction and point out why the term is wrong, contextually.

It's fun listening to the debate as the two go for the jugular. How pleasantly stunning the specifics pointed out and the recommended course of action. Most admirable is how the senior statesman approaches the wrongful presentation with maturity. It is here where you see razor sharp intellect dismantle controversial issues with a kid's glove. I haven't seen this in the Legislature here.

Letter to the Editor

Landownership

My issues is land ownership: I have been trying to apply for land on Saipan. I was born in the Navy Hill Hospital back in 1960 on Saipan and grew up in Garapan. My parents were Rosa Quidachay Arriola and Jose Fausto Arriola. All these years, I've been applying for land and I got turned down due to my resident status. I was told that I can't apply for land since I'm not residing on the island. According to our former House representative, that person who turned down my applications and informed me that I can't own any land

has given me false information and has lied and cheated me out of what I deserve as a bona fide resident of Saipan.

I'm speaking for all Saipanese that has left the islands due to job relocations, we should be able to own a piece of land even if we're not residents. The government is discriminating against us.

Adelina Arriola Ibanez
Montgomery, Maryland

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



The day of infamy casts a long shadow. Former U.S. VP Cheney in a 1999 speech echoes the sentiment: "... *there will be an annual growth in global oil demand over the years along with a natural decline in production... So where is the oil coming from? ...many regions of the world offer great oil opportunities, the Middle East with two-thirds of the world's oil and the lowest cost, is still where the prize ultimately lies...*" The Bush foreign policy that saw conflagration in Iraq and Afghanistan, and a hyped frenzy over terrorism, proceeded from this sentiment. It also explains recent North Africa and the Middle East events.

Cheney added: "*Oil is the only large industry whose leverage has not been all that effective in the political arena. We need to earn credibility to have our views heard.*" Ex-Haliburton (the world's largest energy and military services corporations) CEO Cheney would be pleased with the current lobby. OWS is a primal scream to the cheapening of the 237-year-old experiment in U.S. governance.

Western press bemoans politicians' visit to Yasukuni where World War II criminals are enshrined, and invoke the day of infamy theme. Historians' assessment provides the other side of the coin, of acts taken by desperate men whose *seppuku* was occasioned by razors handed them so they can get on with their demise.

Europe and the U.S. are gas guzzlers. Japan joined; China kowtowed "by your leave." But U.S. foreign policy, not unlike Britain's to Germany in the last century, denies China's access to Middle East, African, and South African oil. Its military might is positioned in defense of maritime lanes on South China Sea islands that hold a barrel and some. That's like Saddam holding WMDs!

We shan't repeat history. My call.

TOUGH

From Page 10

enforcement of the law, but only one-third said they believed that deportation was the solution to the problem.

And, almost needless to say, a campaign that focuses on cracking down on illegal immigrants is a good way to alienate Latino voters, one of the fastest-growing parts of the electorate.

"Latinos feel as if they're being used as a political piñata," complained Hector Barajas, a GOP strategist in Sacramento who was Meg Whitman's spokesman in her 2010 campaign for governor.

"Obama says I'm with you but I'm not willing to do anything for you. The Republicans say we want to secure the border and enforce the law, but that's all they're saying. What happens after that? We never get to hear."

In Arizona, he warned, Democrats are registering thousands of new Latino voters in the wake of a controversial law that requires police to check the immigration status of anyone they detain while enforcing other laws, if the suspect appears to be a potential illegal immigrant.

"You're giving them something to fight for," he said. "Republicans should drop the subject (of immigration) and talk about jobs instead."

Latino support for Obama has remained solid, even though many Latino activists have been vocally dissatisfied with the president's failure to advance immigration reform legislation. A 21-state Univision poll last month found that in a head-to-head matchup, Latinos favored Obama over Romney by a lopsided 67 percent to 24 percent, a bigger margin than Obama enjoyed over John McCain in 2008 (and a far cry from when George W. Bush won an estimated 44 percent of the Latino vote in 2004).

Asked how he would energize Latino voters in a year when Democrats fear that their supporters will suffer from an "enthusiasm gap," Obama said the Republicans are doing his work for him.

"We may just run clips of the Republican debates," he told Univision. "We won't even comment on them. We'll just run those in a loop on Univision and Telemundo."






By the time the election rolls around in November, I'm betting the Republican candidate, whoever he is, will sound more like the Mitt Romney of 2007. "The 12 million or so that are here illegally should be able to sign up for permanent residency or citizenship," Romney said then, "but they should not be given a special pathway, a special guarantee that all of them get to stay here."

There's a lot of electioneering to come between now and then, and a lot of time for the GOP to do itself more damage. But this is an issue on which most Republican voters are more sensible than their candidates.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Majuro	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 79

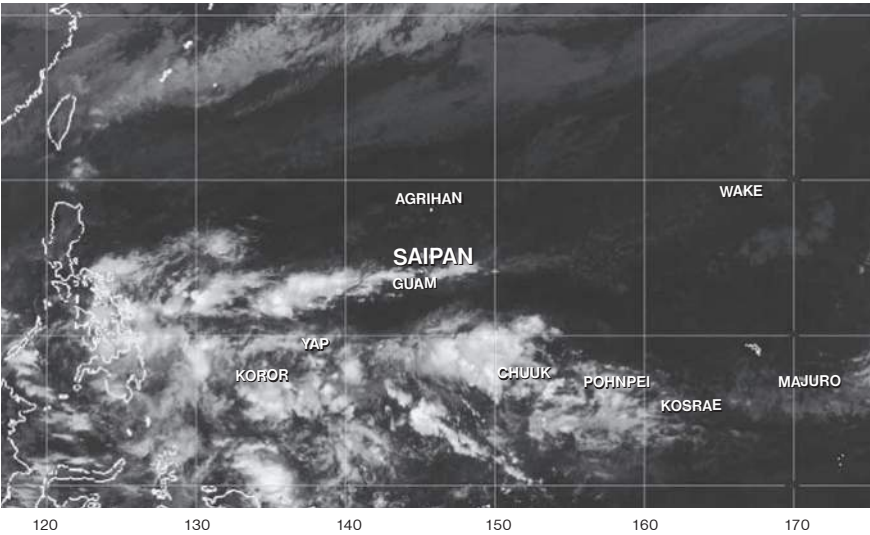
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 59
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 33 ▼ 16
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 59
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 81 ▼ 72
London	Windy	▲ 57 ▼ 41
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 62 ▼ 41
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 82 ▼ 75
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 58
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 66
New York	Showers	▲ 48 ▼ 37
Osaka	Showers	▲ 56 ▼ 46
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 50 ▼ 43
Pusan	Showers	▲ 53 ▼ 34
Rome	Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 47
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 43 ▼ 36
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 45
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 38 ▼ 26
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 53 ▼ 43
Washington, DC	Rain	▲ 51 ▼ 38

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
6:27 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:25 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
4:45 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line near Minami Tori Shima extends southwestward from 25N155E to 20N130E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. Another shear line runs across the Marianas from 15N160E to beyond 11N130E. Cloudiness and widely scattered showers are found along and up to 100 miles northwest of this boundary. Low-level convergence associated with a circulation southwest of Koror near 4N132E is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across the Republic of Palau and just south of Yap between the equator and 9N from 130E to 142E and within 100 miles of a line from 6N144E to 1N152E. A tropical disturbance near Chuuk is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 11N and 7N from 145E to 154E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Pohnpei within 150 miles of a line from 4N154E to 6N161E. An upper-level low centered northeast of Majuro at 12N176E is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near the date line to the east of a line from 15N177E to 5N172E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Thursday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:31 AM	5:47 PM
Saturday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Sunday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:11 PM	3:25 AM
Thursday	3:54 PM	4:14 AM
Friday	4:40 PM	5:05 AM
Saturday	5:30 PM	5:57 AM
Sunday	6:22 PM	6:48 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 6, 2011

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C05070 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:35am Daily DL297 4:35pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/179 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:10am 2:20pm 1, 2, 4, 6 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

First-class mail: Just a little bit s-l-o-w-e-r

WASHINGTON (AP)—Already mocked by some as “snail mail,” first-class U.S. mail will slow even more by next spring under plans by the cash-strapped U.S. Postal Service to eliminate more than 250 processing centers. Nearly 30,000 workers would be laid off, too, as the post office struggles to respond to a shift to online communication and bill payments.

The cuts are part of \$3 billion in reductions aimed at helping the agency avert bankruptcy next year. They would virtually eliminate the chance for stamped letters to arrive the next day, a change in first-class delivery standards that have been in place since 1971.

The plan technically must await an advisory opinion from the independent Postal Regulatory Commission, slated for next March. But that opinion is nonbinding, and only substantial pressure from Congress, businesses or the public might deter far-reaching cuts.

Many postal customers will be upset.

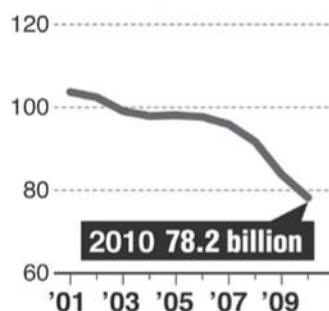
“The post office is a mainstay of America, and the fact that these services will no longer be available is absolutely crazy,” said Carol Braxton of Naperville, Ill., as she waited in line at a mail sorting center Monday with the holiday shipping season picking up steam.

“Well I’m not happy about them, but what else can you do with this economy? If they’re getting ready to go bankrupt, it’s better to cut back than to go totally bankrupt,” said Deborah Butler of Brandywine, Md., who was at a Washington, D.C., post office. “You still need them. Because everybody can’t afford the other ones, like express mail and things like that. Even though the world is computer literate, everybody doesn’t

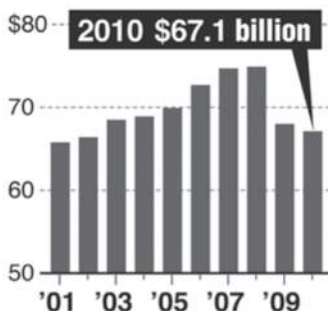


As part of \$3 billion in cuts, the U.S. Postal Service may cut more than half of its mail processing facilities which would likely end next-day delivery

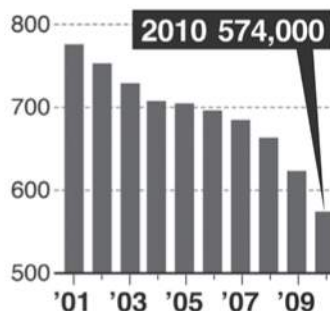
First-class mail
In billions of pieces



Annual revenue
In billions of dollars



Employees
In thousands



The 252 processing centers being studied for likely closure
by state or territory

Alabama	5	Maine	1	Ohio	10
Arizona*	3	Maryland	4	Oklahoma	4
Arkansas*	5	Massachusetts*	7	Oregon*	6
California	15	Michigan*	7	Pennsylvania	11
Colorado	4	Minnesota	4	Puerto Rico	1
Connecticut	2	Mississippi	4	South Carolina	1
Delaware	1	Missouri	2	South Dakota	2
Florida	9	Montana*	4	Tennessee	5
Georgia	13	Nebraska	5	Texas*	10
Idaho	1	Nevada	2	Utah	1
Illinois*	9	New Hampshire	2	Vermont	2
Indiana	8	New Jersey	6	Virginia	4
Iowa	4	New Mexico	8	Washington	8
Kansas*	7	New York	13	West Virginia	4
Kentucky	9	North Carolina	6	Wisconsin	5
Louisiana	2	North Dakota	3	Wyoming	3

States not on the list: Alaska, Hawaii, Rhode Island

*Includes one facility in state capital

Source: U.S. Postal Service. AP

Graphic: Robert Dorrell

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have computers.”

At a news briefing in Washington, postal vice president David Williams said the post

office needs to move quickly to cut costs as it seeks to stem five years of red ink amid steadily declining mail volume. After

hitting 98 billion in 2006, first-class mail volume is now at less than 78 billion. It is projected to drop by roughly half by 2020.

EU seeks to save the euro, but S&P isn't convinced

PARIS (AP)—Seeking to restore confidence in the euro, the leaders of France and Germany jointly have called for changes to the European Union treaty so that countries using the euro would face automatic penalties if budget deficits ran too high.

But not everyone on Wall Street was reassured that Europe would get control of its 2-year-old debt crisis.

Stock prices rose and borrowing costs for European govern-

ments dropped sharply in response to the changes proposed on Monday by French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. But some of the optimism faded late in the day when Standard and Poor's threatened to cut its credit ratings on 15 eurozone countries, including the likes of Germany, France and Austria which have been considered Europe's safest government debt issuers.

The announcement came

only hours after Sarkozy and Merkel revealed sweeping plans to change the EU treaty in an effort to keep tighter checks on overspending nations. The proposal is set to form the basis of discussions at a summit of EU leaders on Thursday and Friday that is expected to provide a blueprint for an exit from the crisis.

While the Franco-German plan would tie the 17-eurozone nations closer together,

a tighter union would likely also result in heavier financial burdens for the region's stronger economies, which have already put up billions of euros to rescue Greece, Ireland and Portugal.

Analysts noted that the proposals did not foresee a clear roadmap on how to get the eurozone economies growing again and to reduce funding costs for struggling nations in the longterm.

FAA chief on leave after drunken driving arrest

WASHINGTON (AP)—FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt was placed on a leave of absence Monday as Department of Transportation officials decide how to handle Babbitt's weekend arrest on charges of drunken driving in suburban northern Virginia.

DOT officials are in “discussions with legal counsel about Administrator Babbitt's employment status,” said a statement released by Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood's office Monday afternoon.

The Federal Aviation Administration is part of the Transportation Department. Babbitt is about halfway through a five-year term.

Babbitt, 65, was charged with driving while intoxicated after a patrol officer spotted him driving on the wrong side of the street and pulled him over about 10:30

p.m. EST Saturday in Fairfax City, Va., police in the Washington, D.C., suburb said.

Babbitt, who lives in nearby Reston, Va., was the only occupant in the vehicle, the statement said. Police said he cooperated and was released on his own recognizance.

Babbitt apparently delayed telling administration officials about the arrest. White House spokesman Jay Carney said President Barack Obama and Transportation Department officials learned of the arrest Monday afternoon, about an hour before a 1:30 p.m. EST statement was released saying Babbitt had been placed on leave at his request.

Separately, Fairfax City police issued a statement on the arrest to the media at about noon Monday. They refused to disclose the results of Babbitt's blood alcohol test. The legal limit is .08.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil falls to near \$100 after S&P warning

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell to near \$100 a barrel Tuesday in Asia after a U.S. credit rating agency warned it may cut the debt ratings of 15 eurozone countries. Benchmark crude for January delivery was down 50 cents to \$100.49 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 3 cents to settle at \$100.99 on Monday.

Panel to release findings of Olympus scandal probe

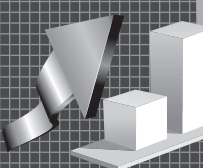
TOKYO (AP)—A third-party panel investigating an accounting cover-up at Olympus Corp. that has become one of Japan's biggest corporate scandals is to release its findings later Tuesday. After initially denying wrongdoing, the Tokyo-based camera and medical device maker admitted it hid investment losses dating back to the 1990s with questionable acquisitions and exorbitant fees for financial advice. The murky transactions were

first brought to light in October by former CEO Michael Woodford, 51, who called on the entire board to resign and bring in outside directors for more transparency. Instead, he was sacked.

Trading firms to face new rules on customer funds

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal rule adopted Monday places tighter restrictions on how U.S. trading firms can invest their customers' money. The action comes amid a federal investigation into whether MF Global illegally tapped its clients' accounts before filing for bankruptcy. The Commodity Futures Trading Commission voted Monday to finalize the rule. It prohibits firms from using money from customer accounts for certain investments, including purchases of foreign debt. It also limits how much of their money can be invested in others, such as money-market mutual funds. Firms will be allowed to petition the agency for an exemption to that restriction.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
12,097.80
78.41
0.65%

S&P
1,257.08
12.80
1.03%

NASDAQ
2,655.76
28.83
1.10%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	0.9830
British Pound	0.6400
Canadian Dollar	1.0197
Chinese Yuan	6.3420
Euro	0.7478

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7740	Philippine Peso	43.2100
Indian Rupee	51.2750	Singapore Dollar	1.2856
Indonesian Rupiah	9,035.00	South Korean Won	1,132.30
Japanese Yen	77.7770	Swiss Franc	0.9235
Malaysian Ringgit	3.1370	Taiwan Dollar	30.2140
New Zealand Dollar	1.2888	Thailand Baht	30.7800

Nation

Obama prods Republicans on payroll tax cut

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama accepted a move by Senate Democrats to scale back his Social Security payroll tax cut extension on Monday, then prodded Republicans to support it despite a requirement for the very wealthy to pay more taxes.

Obama also called on lawmakers to renew a program of extended unemployment benefits due to expire on Dec. 31. He said the checks, which kick in after six months of joblessness, are “the last line of defense between hardship and catastrophe” for some victims of the recession and a painfully slow recovery.

The president made his remarks at the White House as Republicans and Democrats in Congress said a holiday-season package was beginning to come into focus that could cost \$180 billion or more over a decade. Elements include not only the payroll tax cut and unemployment benefit renewals, but also a provision to avert a threatened 27 percent reduction in fees to doctors who treat Medicare patients.

While there are differences over the details of the three principal components—many Republicans are reluctant to extend the tax cut—there is at least as much disagreement among senior lawmakers in the two political parties



President Barack Obama talks about extending payroll tax cuts, Monday, Dec. 5, 2011, in the White House briefing room in Washington.

over ways to cover the cost so deficits don't rise.

House Republicans are drafting legislation to extend an existing pay freeze for federal workers as partial payment for the tax cut and unemployment benefits. Other cost-savers are expected to include a proposal Obama advanced earlier this year to raise pension costs for federal employees, officials said. The bill may also include another

presidential recommendation, this one for a surcharge on Medicaid policies purchased by future Medicare recipients.

Officials said that to offset the two-year, \$38 billion price tag of the Medicare provision, House Republicans want to cut funds from the year-old health care legislation that stands as Obama's signature domestic policy accomplishment. Some Democrats want instead to count defense funds ap-

proved but unspent for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—a proposal that many GOP lawmakers deem an accounting gimmick.

The Medicare proposal enjoys strong popularity among lawmakers in both parties. House Republican leaders signaled last week they intend to include it in the overall package as a sweetener for members of the party's rank and file who are unhappy at the prospect of ex-

tending the payroll tax cut.

GOP critics say there is no evidence that the current tax cut has helped create jobs, and also say they fear the impact of a renewal on the deficit and on the fund that pays Social Security benefits. A majority of Republican senators voted last week against a plan backed by their own leadership to extend the cut.

But Obama noted House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, has said that the renewal would help the economy, and said the party's Senate leaders had made similar comments.

“I couldn't agree more. And I hope that the rest of their Repub-

lican colleagues come around and join Democrats to pass these tax cuts and put money back into the pockets of working Americans,” the president said.

Obama also added, “I know many Republicans have sworn an oath never to raise taxes as long as they live. How could it be that the only time there's a catch is when it comes to raising taxes on middle-class families? How can you fight tooth-and-nail to protect high-end tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans, and yet barely lift a finger to prevent taxes going up for 160 million Americans who really need the help?”

BP: Halliburton destroyed vital evidence on oil spill

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—BP in a high-stakes court filing on Monday accused Halliburton of destroying damaging evidence about the quality of its cement slurry that went into drilling the oil well that blew out last year and caused the nation's worst offshore oil spill.

BP accused Halliburton of having intentionally destroyed evidence about possible problems with its cement slurry poured into the deep-sea Macondo well about 100 miles off the Louisiana coast. An oil well must be cemented properly to avoid blowouts.

Also in the documents filed in a New Orleans federal court, BP accused Halliburton of failing to produce incriminating computer modeling evidence. BP accused Halliburton of claiming the modeling is gone.

BP asked U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier to penalize Halliburton and order a court-sponsored computer forensic team to recover the missing modeling results.

Halliburton did not return a call seeking comment but told other media outlets that the accusations were untrue.

The allegations in the 310-page motion ratcheted up the showdown among BP PLC and contractors, Halliburton and Transocean Ltd. The three companies have been sparring over blame for the April 2010 Deepwater Horizon blast, which killed 11 workers and

led to the release of 206 million gallons of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico. So far, BP, the majority owner of the Macondo well, has footed the bill for the emergency response and cleanup.

Also involved are Anadarko Petroleum Co. and Cameron International Corp.

The first trial over the Deepwater Horizon disaster is scheduled to start Feb. 27 in New Orleans. The first leg is expected to take about three months and determine the liability of each company involved in drilling the Macondo well. There will be other phases over cleanup costs, punitive damages and other claims.

Federal and independent investigations of the disaster have found fault in Halliburton's cement job because it failed to properly plug the well. Halliburton used a foamy cement slurry.

In Monday's court filing, BP accused Halliburton employees doing an internal investigation of the Macondo disaster of discarding and destroying early test results they performed on the same batch of cement slurry used in the Macondo well.

BP said Halliburton's chief cement mixer for Gulf projects testified in depositions that the cement slurry seemed “thin” to him but that he chose not to write about his findings to his bosses out of fear he would be misinterpreted.

Megachurch's future uncertain after pastor leaves

ATLANTA (AP)—When Bishop Eddie Long was accused of sexual misconduct by former church members, his congregation rallied around him and his wife stood by his side. About a year later, the Atlanta megachurch pastor is headed for divorce and stepping away from the pulpit.

Long announced Sunday at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church that he needed a break from preaching to focus on his family. The hiatus leaves New Birth, which once boasted 25,000 members, at a crossroads, its reputation battered and membership dwindling. Their pasts inextricably linked for nearly a generation, both Long and his church face an uncertain future.

“A church is bigger than its pastor,” said Goldie Taylor, who has attended New Birth in the past. “For too long, the New

Birth family has acted as if it is smaller than its pastor. Its challenge going forward will be its ability to flip that and become a church without walls again.”

For many members, Long has been the only pastor they have ever known. He became senior pastor in 1987, taking the helm of a flock of only a few hundred members. Not long after he arrived, the former Ford salesman and Honeywell executive dismissed New Birth's board of directors and took unilateral control of the church, ensuring that he would be the one to determine the date of his departure.

New Birth grew quickly under its charismatic, dynamic young leader, swelling to 8,000 members in five years. A decade later New Birth boasted 18,000

members and the church paid cash for the land and sprawling property it currently occupies in DeKalb County—including a 10,000-seat sanctuary. In addition to its Lithonia, Ga., headquarters, the church has satellites in several cities including Miami, Charlotte and Denver and television and international ministries.

Many who joined the church under Long's tenure were attracted to the prosperity gospel that he preached and practiced. It was a message that mirrored

an emerging black middle class in and around Atlanta. Unlike the traditional Southern Baptist preacher, Long owned a \$350,000 Bentley and private jet, lived in a \$1.4 million house with six bedrooms and nine bathrooms, adorned himself

with diamond jewelry and read his sermons on an iPad.

Long's spiritual swagger inspired a loyal and protective congregation. In September 2010, when accusations swirled that he used his lavish lifestyle to seduce four young men into sexual relationships in exchange for cars, clothes and trips, New Birth members supported around their embattled leader, who vowed he was innocent and would fight the cases.

Long settled out of court eight months later for an undisclosed amount and has never admitted any wrongdoing. After that, some changed their opinion of him.

“Once the money was paid, it was like you're hiding something,” said Donielle Marshall, who joined New Birth as a college student in 1999. “Did you lie to us? I look at him as just a common man, full of fault, but also a disgrace.”



Long

ACROSS THE NATION

Two elderly women object to security search at JFK

NEW YORK (AP)—With age come such things as catheters, colostomy bags and adult diapers. Now add another indignity to getting old—having to drop your pants and show these things to a complete stranger. Two women

in their 80s put the Transportation Security Administration on the defensive this week by going public about their embarrassment during screenings in a private room at Kennedy Airport. One claimed she was forced to lower her pants and underwear in front of an agent so that her back brace could be inspected. Another said

agents made her pull down her waistband to show her colostomy bag. While not confirming some of the details, the TSA said a preliminary review shows officers followed the agency's procedures in both cases. But experts said the potential for such searches will increase as the U.S. population ages and receives pros-

thetics and other medical devices, some of which cannot go through screening machines.

16,000 Holocaust victims to get German pensions

NEW YORK (AP)—After a year of tough negotiations, Germany has agreed to pay pen-

sions to about 16,000 additional Holocaust victims worldwide—mostly survivors who were once starving children in Nazi ghettos, or were forced to live in hiding for fear of death. The agreement announced Monday between the New York-based Claims Conference and the German government is “not about

money—it's about Germany's acknowledgment of these people's suffering,” said Greg Schneider, the conference's executive vice president. “They're finally getting recognition of the horrors they endured as children,” he told The Associated Press. Of the new beneficiaries, 5,000 live in the United States.

Asia

Water leaks from crippled Japanese nuclear plant

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's crippled nuclear power plant leaked about 45 tons of highly radioactive water from a purification device over the weekend, its operator said, and some may have drained into the ocean.

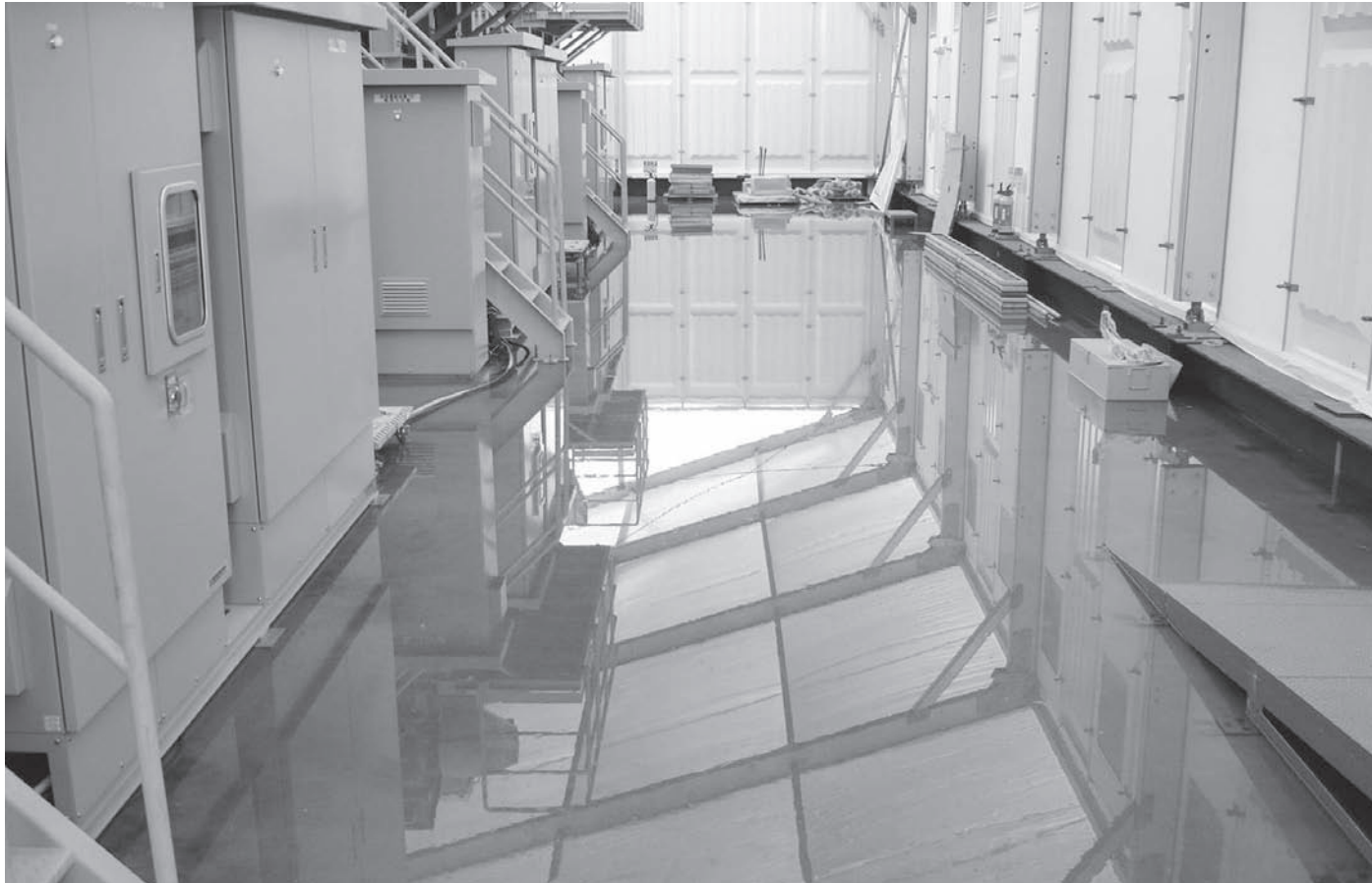
The leak is a reminder of the difficulties facing Tokyo Electric Power Co. as it tries to meet its goal of bringing the tsunami-damaged Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant to a cold shutdown by year's end.

A pool of radioactive water was discovered midday Sunday around a decontamination device, TEPCO said in a statement on its website. After the equipment was turned off, the leak appeared to stop. Later, workers found a crack in a concrete barrier leaking the contaminated water into a gutter that leads to the ocean.

TEPCO estimated about 300 liters leaked out before the crack was blocked with sandbags.

Officials were checking whether any water had reached the nearby ocean.

The leakage of radioactive



This Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011 photo released by Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) shows leakage from a purification device at the tsunami-damaged Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Okuma town, Fukushima prefecture, north of Tokyo.

water from the Fukushima plant into the Pacific Ocean in the weeks after the March 11 accident caused widespread concern that seafood in the coastal waters would be contaminated.

The pooled water around the purification device was measured Sunday at 16,000 becquerels per liter of cesium-134, and 29,000 becquerels per liter of cesium-137, TEPCO said. That's 270 times and 322 times higher, respectively, than government safety limits, according to the Citizens' Nuclear Information Center in Tokyo.

Cesium-137 is dangerous because it can last for decades in the environment, releasing cancer-causing radiation. The half-life of cesium-134 is about two years, while the half-life of cesium-137 is about 30 years.

TEPCO is using the purification devices to decontaminate water that has been cooling the reactors. Three of the plant's reactor cores mostly melted down when the March 11 tsunami knocked out the plant's cooling system.

Ex-leader in court: Khmer Rouge not 'bad people'

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—The No. 2 leader of Cambodia's brutal Khmer Rouge regime told a court he and his comrades were not "bad people," denying responsibility Monday for the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians during their 1970s rule.

Nuon Chea's defiant statements came as the U.N.-backed tribunal began questioning him for the first time since the long-awaited trial of three top regime leaders began late last month. Nuon Chea and two other Khmer Rouge leaders are accused of crimes against humanity, genocide, religious persecution, homicide and torture stemming from the group's 1975-79 reign of terror. All have denied wrongdoing.

The trusted deputy of the late Pol Pot, Nuon Chea blamed neighboring Vietnam for the atrocities that occurred, reiterating long-standing Khmer Rouge's claims that the mass graves discovered subsequently were of people killed by Vietnamese armed forces.

This week the court is expected to focus on charges involving the forced movement of people and crimes against humanity. After the Khmer Rouge captured Phnom Penh on April 17, 1975, they began moving an estimated 1 million people—even hospital patients—from the capital into the countryside in an effort to create a communist agrarian utopia.

After a court clerk read a background of the Khmer Rouge and the three defendants,

Nuon Chea defended the notoriously brutal movement.

"I don't want the next generation to misunderstand history. I don't want them to believe the Khmer Rouge are bad people, are criminals," Nuon Chea said. "Nothing is true about that."

The 85-year-old one-time chief ideologist for the communist movement insisted that no Cambodian was responsible for atrocities during the Khmer Rouge's reign.

"These war crimes and crimes against humanity were not committed by the Cambodian people," Nuon Chea said. "It was the Vietnamese who killed Cambodians."

Vietnam, whose border suffered bloody attacks by Khmer Rouge soldiers, sponsored a resistance movement and in-

vaded, toppling the Khmer Rouge in 1979 and installing a client regime.

When a judge asked about the background of Khmer Rouge party, Nuon Chea said it had been set up to liberate the country from the rich and powerful.

Later, Nuon Chea twice asked the court to adjourn early, complaining of heart problems and breathlessness. Judge Nil Nonn then adjourned proceedings until Tuesday.

The other defendants are Khieu Samphan, an 80-year-old former head of state who also told the court in November he bore no responsibility for atrocities, and 86-year-old Ieng Sary, who has said he will not participate in the trial until a ruling is issued on a pardon he received in 1996. The tribu-

nal previously ruled the pardon does not cover its indictment against him.

There is concern that the accused could pass away before justice is achieved.

Pol Pot died in 1998 in Cam-

bodia's jungles, and a fourth defendant, 79-year-old Ieng Thirith, was ruled unfit to stand trial because she has Alzheimer's disease. She is Ieng Sary's wife and was the regime's minister for social affairs.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan policemen killed in fight with Taliban

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan police say an unspecified number of policemen have been killed and wounded in a gunbattle with insurgents in the country's northeast. Details about Monday's fighting in Badakhshan province are sketchy. Deputy provincial police chief Sayed Hussain Safawi says Afghan police were deployed to Wardooj district after residents complained about violence and intimidation by the Taliban. The district is about 40 miles (65 kilometers) southeast of the provincial capital of Faizabad. The Taliban claim they have kidnapped 30 Afghan police and torched 20 of their vehicles.

UN expert urges Vietnam to close rehab centers

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A United Nations-appointed expert is urging Vietnam's government to close down rehabilitation centers for drug users and sex workers following criticism of abuses by an international rights group, calling them "counterproductive." Anand Grover, a special

rapporteur for the U.N. Human Rights Council, said Monday at the end of a 10-day visit to Vietnam that the centers violate drug users' rights and are ineffective. He said the government should instead expand alternative treatments for drug users. "The detainees are denied the right to be free from nonconsensual treatment as well as the right to informed consent in all medically related decisions," he said in a statement.

2nd tobacco company fights Australian logo ban

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A second major tobacco company has gone to Australia's High Court to argue that new laws banning logos from cigarette packs are unconstitutional. Imperial Tobacco Australia Ltd. on Tuesday filed pleadings in the country's highest court. British American Tobacco Australia Ltd. last week initiated similar action against laws banning distinctive colors and designs from packs and render them uniformly olive-brown starting December 2012. Imperial Tobacco argues the laws breach Australia's constitution because they acquire intellectual property on unjust terms.

Filipino cops find blood in search for Australian

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine security forces found bloodstains at the coastal home where suspected Muslim militants barged in and dragged an Australian man away in the latest of a rash of abductions in the restive south, officials said Tuesday.

Police said Warren Richard Rodwell, 53, may have been injured when at least half a dozen gunmen took him away late Monday in a sparsely populated village with no guards less than 2 miles (3 kilometers) from the shore in Ipil town in Zamboanga Sibugay province.

"There were some work-

ers doing some paint job in the house, but had already gone when the gunmen arrived," regional police chief Elpidio de Asis told The Associated Press by phone.

Military and police forces were searching nearby hills, apparently hoping to prevent the abductors from taking the hostage by boat to neighboring islands where they usually hide and negotiate for ransom.

In the Australian capital of Canberra, Prime Minister Julia Gillard said Tuesday that her government had established a task force to investigate the kidnapping. Such task forces typi-

cally include trained hostage negotiators.

Gillard said the Australian Embassy in Manila was working with local authorities to establish the facts.

There is a high possibility that the notorious al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group is behind the abduction, said de Asis. He said that Rodwell was kidnapped in the same Ipil area where the militants snatched a Filipino businesswoman in September and took her by boat to their jungle stronghold on nearby Basilan Island. She was wounded in a rescue operation two weeks later.

Desperate for funds, the militants have resorted to kidnappings, targeting people who struggle to pay ransom. Last year the group carried out at least 11 kidnappings and raised about \$704,000 in ransom, according to a confidential government report seen by The Associated Press in February. They killed at least six hostages whose families failed to pay for their release, the report said.

Zamboanga Sibugay province was the scene of heavy fighting in October when government troops overran a camp of Muslim rebels and outlaws, sending the main group of the original 100 gunmen fleeing.

World

Egypt runoff exposes tensions between Islamists

CAIRO (AP)—The runoff Monday for Egypt's first-round parliamentary elections heated up tensions between competing Islamist groups that have so far dominated the vote, with scuffles breaking out and allegations of death threats.

The strife shows the challenges facing the front-runner, the Muslim Brotherhood, after hard-line Islamist parties made a surprisingly strong showing. The more moderate Brotherhood is now under pressure to reassure both Egyptians and foreign allies that the country is not going down an extremist path and remains committed to democratic transition.

The Brotherhood, Egypt's largest and best organized political group, is in the lead so far, with about 37 percent of the vote, according to partial results released Sunday. But the hard-line Al-Nour bloc grabbed nearly a quarter of the vote for the ultraconservative Salafis, who seek to impose strict Islamic law in Egypt.

The strong Islamist showing came at the expense of liberal activist groups that led the uprising against Hosni Mubarak, toppling a regime long seen as a secular bulwark in the Middle East.



An Egyptian street cleaner sits outside of a polling station in Cairo, Monday, Dec. 5, 2011.

Nabil Abdel-Fattah, a senior researcher at Al-Ahram Center for Strategic Studies, said the Islamists are in a "fierce" battle over the same ideological base.

"They both have high financial resources. The Brotherhood have experience and social networks," he said.

The Salafis "have no (politi-

cal) experience, but are relying on a long history ... of concessions" by the Mubarak regime, which "left them to expand as a way to counter the power of the Muslim Brotherhood."

"This is going to be a very conservative Islamic parliament," he said. "The conflicts will be between that trend and the democratic forces."

The Salafis espouse a strict interpretation of Islam similar to that of Saudi Arabia, where the sexes are segregated and women must be veiled and are barred from driving. They speak openly about their aim of turning Egypt into a state where personal freedoms, including freedom of speech, women's dress and art, are constrained by

Islamic law.

Reform leader and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Mohamed ElBaradei warned that the strident positions of some ultra-conservative leaders have sent "shock waves" both inside and outside Egypt.

"I think the Brotherhood in particular, and some of the Salafis, should send quickly messages of assurance both inside the country and outside the country to make sure that society continues to be cohesive, to make sure that investment will come in," ElBaradei

told The Associated Press in an interview Sunday.

Tensions between the Brotherhood and Salafis were simmering Monday in some runoff districts.

In southern Assiut province, there were scuffles and even allegations of death threats against Brotherhood candidates by supporters of Gamaa Islamiya, a former militant group that is part of the Al-Nour bloc. The province is a stronghold of the group, which fought the Mubarak regime in a bloody insurgency in the 1990s.

Brazil: Amazon destruction at lowest level

SAO PAULO (AP)—Annual destruction of the Amazon rain forest fell to its lowest recorded level this year, Brazilian authorities said Monday, hailing an enforcement crackdown for the drop.

The destruction between August 2010 through July 2011 was about 2,410 square miles (6,240 square kilometers), according to the National Institute for Space Research.

That's an area about the size of the U.S. state of Delaware.

The institute has tracked Amazon destruction since 1988 by analyzing satellite images. The destruction peaked in 1995, when 11,220 square miles (29,060 square kilometers) were destroyed.

Environment Minister Izabella Teixeira said the government's fast action to reduce deforestation and carbon emissions led to the drop.

"We'll continue with determination to reduce the illegal deforestation in the Amazon," she told a news conference in the capital of Brasilia.

Brazil's government has stepped up enforcement of environmental laws in recent years, mostly by sending armed environmental agents into the jungle to carrying out large raids on deforestation hotspots.

The announcement of the drop comes as Brazil's Senate prepares to vote this week on changes to the nation's benchmark environmental laws that

would loosen restrictions on how small farmers use their land in the Amazon.

Environmentalists fear the bill would bring increased deforestation and warn the current drop is likely due less to the government's crackdown and more to the global economic downturn. They say that has reduced demand for products, such as soy, cattle raised in illegally cleared pastures, and timber, that lead to the destruction.

Operators of small-scale farms and ranches defend the measure as letting them produce to full capacity and boost Brazil's food output.

The bill would let farmers and ranchers with small holdings work land closer to riverbanks and to use hilltops, practices that are currently outlawed. It also grants amnesty from harsh fines levied on farms and ranches of any size that cleared more tree cover than legally allowed before July 2008.

While bigger landholders also would be freed from penalties already levied, they would still have to replant land that they cleared beyond legal limits or buy and preserve the same amount of forested land elsewhere to make up for what they cut. In the Amazon, 80 percent of property is supposed to remain untouched forest. Elsewhere in Brazil, the limit ranges from 35 percent to 20 percent, depending on the area.

Protesters accuse Putin's party of rigging vote

MOSCOW (AP)—Several thousand protesters took to the streets Monday night and accused Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's party of rigging this weekend's parliamentary election in which it won the largest share of the seats.

It was perhaps the biggest opposition rally in years and ended with police detaining about 300 activists. A group of several hundred marched toward the Central Elections Commission near the Kremlin, but were stopped by riot police and taken away in buses.

Estimates of the number of protesters ranged from 5,000 to 10,000. They chanted "Russia without Putin" and accused his United Russia party of stealing votes.

In St. Petersburg, police de-

tained about 120 protesters.

United Russia won about 50 percent of Sunday's vote, a result that opposition politicians and election monitors said was inflated because of ballot-box stuffing and other vote fraud. It was a significant drop from the last election, when the party took 64 percent.

Pragmatically, the loss of seats in the State Duma appears to mean little because two of the three other parties winning seats have been reliable supporters of government legislation.

Nevertheless, it was a substantial symbolic blow to a party that had become virtually indistinguishable from the state itself.

The result has also energized the opposition and poses a humbling challenge to Putin, the country's dominant figure, in his

drive to return to the presidency.

Putin, who became prime minister in 2008 because of presidential term limits, will run for a third term in March, and some opposition leaders saw the parliamentary election as a game-changer for what had been presumed to be his easy stroll back to the Kremlin.

More than 400 Communist Party supporters also gathered Monday to express their indignation over the election, which some called the dirtiest in modern Russian history. The Communists finished second with about 20 percent of the vote.

"Even compared to the 2007 elections, violations by the authorities and the government bodies that actually control the work of all election organizations at all levels, from local to central, were

so obvious and so brazen," said Yevgeny Dorovin, a member of the party's central committee.

Putin appeared subdued and glum even as he insisted at a Cabinet meeting Monday that the result "gives United Russia the possibility to work calmly and smoothly."

Although the sharp decline for United Russia could lead Putin and the party to try to portray the election as genuinely democratic, the wide reports of violations have undermined that attempt at spin.

Boris Nemtsov, a prominent figure among Russia's beleaguered liberal opposition, declared that the vote spelled the end of Putin's "honeymoon" with the nation and predicted that his rule will soon "collapse like a house of cards."

WORLD BRIEFS

Belgium's government to be sworn in after 541 days

BRUSSELS (AP)—King Albert II named Elio Di Rupo as the first French-speaking prime minister in nearly 40 years late Monday in one of the final steps before his team formally ends the record 541 days the country has gone without a government. The swearing-in on Tuesday will be a long-awaited relief to the entire nation of 6.5 million

Dutch speakers and 4.5 million French speakers who long ago grew frustrated with the deadlock between politicians over linguistic differences. One radio presenter finally shaved off the beard he has grown for almost a year to protest the drawn-out coalition negotiations, an unofficial world record. "I won't do it again, never again," Koen Fillet said after he was soaped, shaved and splashed with aftershave in a show webcast live.

Mexico top presidential contender can't name books

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Oops! Politicians north of the border aren't the only ones struggling with gaffes this campaign season. Mexico's leading presidential contender floundered in confusion for about four minutes when the audience at a book fair asked him to name three books that had influenced him. He was able to correctly name only one he has

read "parts of:" the Bible. Former Mexico State Gov. Enrique Pena Nieto holds a comfortable lead in opinion polls for Mexico's July 1 presidential election, but his appearance was reminiscent of the campaign-denting moment that Texas Gov. Rick Perry suffered at a Republican debate in November. The GOP hopeful said he couldn't remember one of the three government agencies he pledged to eliminate if he were president. "Oops!" he

finally admitted.

Party asks to exhume Neruda's remains in Chile

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—Chile's Communist Party is asking a judge to order the exhumation of the remains of famed poet Pablo Neruda due to allegations that he may have been poisoned. Party member Juan Andres Lagos told The Associated Press on Monday that

the request will be reviewed by Judge Mario Carroza, who is probing deaths allegedly caused by abuses during the dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet between 1973 and 1990. Manuel Araya, who was Neruda's chauffeur and assistant, has told reporters in recent months that he and Neruda's wife received a phone call from him on the day of his death from a hospital where he was being treated for late-stage prostate cancer.

Focus

Asia pilot gap grows as airlines order new jets

By **KELVIN CHAN**
AP BUSINESS WRITER

HONG KONG (AP)—Fast-growing Asian and Middle Eastern airlines that have signed orders for hundreds of new airplanes now must find enough pilots to fly them. For safety-conscious travelers, that means sticking with the big, well-known airlines who can afford to lure the best staff as the scramble to fill the cockpit intensifies.

Warnings have been raised for several years of a pilot shortage in Asia, but the latest orders add to the urgency. The region is forecast to account for the lion's share of global aircraft deliveries over the next two decades as demand for air travel surges amid strong economic growth. It's also forecast to need the largest number of new pilots and the widening shortage of experienced staff is raising safety concerns and playing havoc with flight schedules.

"Quite a number of carriers are increasing their orders. So where are the pilots coming from? The shortage is going to manifest itself certainly as we go into next year because there'll be a lot of planes coming in then, so these guys are going to have a hard time finding the pilots to fly them," said Shukor Yusof, an aviation analyst with Standard & Poor's.

Last month, Indonesia's Lion Air ordered 230 Boeing Co. 737s with options for 150 more. Qatar Airways ordered at least 55 jets from Airbus SAS while Emirates ordered 50 Boeing 777s. From 2011 to 2030, Boeing and Airbus both predict Asia will account for about a third of global aircraft deliveries worth a total of more than \$1 trillion.

To keep up with growth and replace retiring pilots, the International Civil Aviation Organization forecasts Asia will need 229,676 pilots over the next two decades, up from 50,344 in 2010. In the most likely scenario, Asia will be short about 9,000 pilots a year because it will need about 14,000 but has capacity to train only about 5,000.

"Never in human history have we seen a time when 2 billion people will enter the middle class and demand air travel. That time is now," said William Voss, president of the Washington, D.C.-based Flight Safety Foundation.

Some airlines are already acting.

Emirates has announced plans to set up a dedicated \$109 million flight training center in Dubai that will be able to train up to 400 students at a time. Earlier this year, Canadian flight-training company CAE Inc. said it was expanding its training center in Zhuhai, China that it runs jointly with China Southern Airlines.

But Roei Ganzarski, Boeing's chief customer officer for flight services, warns that recruiting pilots will be a long-term problem for the aviation industry. "We've already heard of a few airlines that have either reduced their operations or even grounded their airplanes because they don't have enough people to fly them."

Training a commercial airline pilot takes up to three or four years. Trainees must obtain a Private Pilot's License and then a Commercial Pilot's License. Then they need an Air Transport Pilot's License—the advanced credential required to fly a commercial airliner—which in-



In this Nov. 30, 2011 photo, two pilots from Cathay Pacific walk in the Hong Kong International Airport in Hong Kong.

volves logging about 1,500 flying hours. It's an expensive and time-consuming process that rookies starting from scratch will need two to three years to complete.

Once they're hired by an airline as a first officer, candidates need more time for additional conversion training for the type of aircraft they'll be flying, which could take another year.

Aviation industry executives say small airlines will be hit hardest because they can't compete with big, rich carriers such as Dubai-based Emirates, the Middle East's biggest airline.

Capt. Alan Stealey, senior vice president for flight operations, said Emirates isn't facing problems recruiting its target of 600 pilots this year, up from about 400 or 450 in past years.

Emirates lures staff with generous salaries and benefits. First officers earn tax-free annual salaries averaging \$95,000 while captains get about \$135,000 as well as free housing, medical benefits and tuition.

Emirates also operates some of the world's newest, most advanced jets—another draw for recruits.

"We're an airline of choice from a pilot's point of view," said Stealey. "The shortage will not be in carriers like Emirates," but rather will hit smaller, regional

carriers hardest, he predicted.

The crash of an Air India Express jet in May 2010 highlighted the problems smaller airlines are facing. An investigation blamed the Serbian pilot for the disaster in which a Boeing 737 operated by the national carrier's low-cost arm crashed while landing at Mangalore's airport, killing 158 people.

The probe found that the pilot slept through more than half the flight and

international language of aviation.

By hiring pilots from countries where English isn't spoken widely, "you have to accept that there's potential for confusion, or less comprehension," said Gideon Ewers, a spokesman for the U.K.-based International Federation of Airline Pilots' Associations.

Airlines across Asia have been recruiting foreigners. China has at least 1,300 foreign flight captains, according

training and experience as big airlines with cadet programs do. The result is that while airlines may have crews that meet the minimum training requirements, some airlines will have crews that are excellent but others are "dangerously marginal," said Voss.

At airlines where safety and training standards are closely followed, the pilots in the cockpit "correct the missteps and correct problems on the spot. All of those little corrections eventually define the safety culture of that airline," said Voss.

"If the crews are all on six-month contracts, that doesn't happen. Risky behavior goes unchallenged, professionalism decays, and disaster inevitably follows."

A potentially even graver shortage looms of maintenance personnel, aviation groups say. Boeing forecasts that Asia will need a quarter-million new technicians over the next two decades, up from about 46,500 now.

"It is a more difficult problem to solve, since the job is very unattractive and harder to train," Voss said.

AP Business Writer Adam Schreck in Dubai, Aviation Writer Slobodan Lekic in Brussels and AP writer Nirmala George in New Delhi contributed to this report.

Never in human history have we seen a time when 2 billion people will enter the middle class and demand air travel. That time is now.

woke up disoriented when it was time to land the aircraft.

India's pilot shortage has been driven by fierce demand as a slew of carriers have started up in the past decade and expanded rapidly. Pilots complain that they don't have enough rest time between flights, a violation of international aviation safety practices.

Indian airlines have been forced to look abroad for staff, which comes with its own problems as some Eastern European pilots had difficulties with English—the

to the state-run China Daily newspaper. Garuda Indonesia and Korean Airlines have also been forced to hire foreign pilots. In China, state media quoted an American pilot for Spring Airways complaining he had to rely on his Chinese first officer to communicate with air traffic controllers who wouldn't or couldn't speak English.

Experts say while some smaller airlines are forced to hire pilots on short-term contracts, they don't have as much control over the quality of the pilot's

Campus Life



Saipan American Education Foundation School students proudly pose with their teachers/coaches.



Saipan American Education Foundation School student winners with their teachers/coaches.

SAEF students do it again

Sixth, 7th, and 8th grade students of the Saipan American Education Foundation School won in the National Junior Forensic League competition held on Nov. 11, at the Saipan Southern High School. Winners include the following:

■ 1st place, Original Oratory: Candice Aldan

■ 1st place, Poetry A: Candice Aldan

■ 2nd place, Prose A: Miki Takayama

■ 3rd place, Prose A: Eden Conner

■ 3rd place, Duo A: Sophiana Sablan and Keziah Gonzales

■ 4th place, Duo B: Eden Conner and Miki Takayama

■ 5th place, Duo B: Kristine Fajardo and Avelyn Alvarez

On Nov. 19, Saipan American Education Foundation students took home several ribbons from the Primary Grade Forensic Competition held at the San Antonio Elementary School. The winners' list include:

KINDER 5- 2ND GRADE DIVISION:

■ 1st place, Reader's Forum-A: Elizabeth Bonto, 2nd Grade

■ 1st place, Reader's Forum-Master's A: Vladimir Palma, 2nd Grade

■ 1st place, Choral Speaking: Elizabeth Bonto, Amy Rayn Soliman, Alianna Sublemente, Christian Troy Rosimo, Derrick Sese

■ 2nd Place, Reader's Forum-B: Alianna Sublemente, 2nd Grade

■ 4th Place: Reader's Forum Master's A: Amy Rayn Soliman

■ 5th Place, Duo A: Laurence Abad and Vladimir Palma

3RD TO 5TH GRADE DIVISION:

■ 1st Place, Dramatic Interpretation A: Deirdre Rosete, 4th Grade

■ 1st Place, Reader's Forum-B: Jeggier Labao, 5th Grade

■ 1st Place: Reader's Forum Master's B: Deirdre Rosete, 4th Grade

■ 1st Place, Impromptu B: Qian Ling Na Xiao Xiao, 5th Grade

■ 2nd Place, Reader's Forum Master's B: Myka Kassandra Villegas, 5th Grade

■ 3rd Place, Choral Speaking: Rejenemhay Jingco, Aaron Pascua, Jeggier Labao, Christian Aldan, 5th Grade

The school also had one winner in the MathCourt for 6th-8th Grade Division, Miki Takayama, who won first place in the competition held at Chacha Oceanview High School. (SAEF)

MHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

■ Dec.8: Constitution Day; no classes

■ Dec.9: Early dismissal at 1pm

■ Dec.12: Early dismissal at 1pm

■ Dec.13: Regular school day, 8:30am-3pm

■ Dec.14: Early dismissal at 1pm

■ Dec. 15: Mid-term progress reports out. Early dismissal at 1pm. Parents/guardians can

pick up their child's progress report from each teacher anytime from 4pm to 6pm.

■ Dec.16: Regular school day, 8:30am-3pm

■ Dec. 19-22: Regular school day, 8:30am-3pm

■ Dec. 23: Early dismissal at 1pm

For more information, call the Main Office at 237-3206.

GCA open enrollment for K3 program

Open enrollment for Grace Christian Academy's K3 program is ongoing. The program will start on Jan. 9, 2012. Registration will be on a first come, first served basis. Interested families are encouraged to register before Jan. 9, 2012.

Enrollment packet is available at the Registrar's Office. The

packet must be turned in along with all other required documents. A student is officially registered upon paying the registration fee.

Grace Christian Academy is located at Upper Navy Hill. For more information, contact the school at 322-3320/3850 or email gracechristian@gracechristian-ministries.org. (PR)

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

† *Rosita Camacho
Terlaje Pangelinan*

July 14, 1968 – November 18, 2011

In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: Jose and Regina C. Terlaje
Sisters: Maria T. Palacios and Rita C. Terlaje
Nephews: David Terlaje, Joseph Julian R. Camacho
Nieces: Judyana T. Taimanao, Maria Perpetua Q. Terlaje
Godparents: Joaquin C. and Dolores A. DLGuerrero
Felix B. Cabrera

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Mark Dave Sablan Pangelinan
Children: Reynee Monique, Sabrina Rose, Mark Dave Jr., Regina Frances
Reared Children: Vincent (Dana), Lola Joyce / John, Michael, Richard
Brothers / Sisters and In-Laws:
Vicente C. / Maria Terlaje (Frances / Francis, John / Bettina, Gina / Marvin, Vince / Marcy)
Jose C. / Elizabeth Terlaje (Elaine, Jose / Lauren, Darrell, Therese / Joey)
†Maria T. / Antonio (Congxiang) Palacios (Anthony / Marla, Marla Nicole)
†Rita C. Terlaje / Julian Reyes (Janice / Julian, Pauline / Mariano, Joyce / Diony, Antonette / Ray Ervin)
Ana T. / Frank Pickelsimer (Frank III)
Magdalena T. / Mark Hazen (Seattle, WA.) (Marvin / Krissy, Matthew / Stephanie, Michael)
Antonia T. / Don Woodworth (Seattle, WA.) (Ruby June / Jason, Lola Joyce / John, Richard)

Reared Sisters and Brother:

Helen C. / Jesus Sablan (Joey / Sarinee, Jay / Jocelyn, Christine, Jessie)
Soledad Terlaje (David / Janice, Jose)
Edward/ Renee Terlaje (Eddie, Nakita, Regina, Travis, Tyler, Maeyesha, Tomas, Christopher, Cory, Cody)

Godparents: Tito and Melinda DLG. Alepuyo, Agnes T. Cabrera

Parents In Law: Joaquin I. Pangelinan
Frances S. Pangelinan

Brothers and Sisters In Law:

Michael S. / Vivian Pangelinan (Colin)
Zarah P. / Clement Bermudes (Frannie, CJ, Tia)
Ian S. / Jolyn Pangelinan (Zoe, Ian Jr.)
Gina P. / Seth Sablan (Austin, Leila, Avea)
Tomiko C. Pangelinan

Her remains have arrived on Saipan early Monday morning and she is lying in state at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel. Funeral Services will be on Friday, December 09, 2011. Her remains will be escorted to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 8:00am. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will immediately follow upon arrival. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am followed by Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank You and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

**Mark Dave Sablan Pangelinan and Children
Camacho-Terlaje and Sablan – Pangelinan Families**

Life & Style

Martin Sheen aids NY man's wrongful conviction bid

By JENNIFER PELTZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Martin Sheen shone a spotlight Monday on a prisoner's efforts to get his 1999 murder conviction thrown out, saying the case "cries out for justice."

Meeting inmate Jon-Adrian Velazquez at a suburban prison Monday "confirmed my belief that he is an innocent man," the actor said at a news conference later in the day outside a Manhattan courthouse. "I came away inspired. He is a young man on fire with the truth."

Sheen's appearance trained some star power on a case that involves a longstanding issue getting new attention from the U.S. Supreme Court: the reliability of eyewitness identifications of suspects.

Convicted of fatally shooting retired police officer Albert Ward in an underground betting parlor in 1998, Velazquez is serving 25 years to life in prison. But he and lawyers Robert C. Gottlieb and Celia A. Gordon are trying to persuade Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. to reinvestigate the case and exonerate Velazquez.

Vance's office is reviewing the case, spokeswoman Erin Duggan said Monday.

With no DNA or other physical evidence against Velazquez, "this case is strictly the result of eyewitness misidentification" from photo arrays and lineups that weren't properly conducted, Gottlieb said.

Retired from the police force since 1977, Ward, 59, was in a Harlem betting parlor when two men came in and announced a stickup on Jan. 27, 1998, authorities said. Ward pulled his gun and fired, and the robbers fired back, hitting him in the

face and killing him, according to authorities.

After a witness picked Velazquez's photo out of a police book, that witness and three others identified him in an in-person lineup.

Velazquez and another man, Darryl Daniels, were charged. Daniels, who pleaded guilty to first-degree robbery and was sentenced to 12 years, testified during his plea that Velazquez was his partner in the robbery and had shot Ward. Daniels wasn't called to testify at Velazquez's trial.

Two eyewitnesses have

since given Velazquez's lawyers sworn statements recanting their identifications of him, and the other two who identified him now say they aren't sure, his lawyers said.

While the suspect was described as a black man with braids, Velazquez is Hispanic and wore his hair short, his lawyers have noted.

His mother, Maria, has long said Velazquez couldn't have been involved in the shooting because he was on the phone to her, from his home, moments before it happened. But "as his mother, I wasn't be-

lieved," she said Monday.

Eyewitness identifications are a venerable and crucial part of the criminal justice system, but they also have played critical roles in many cases in which people were wrongly convicted and later exonerated through DNA evidence.

The Supreme Court heard arguments last month in a case involving a New Hampshire man who was convicted of theft based on eyewitness testimony; he wants to extend judges' power to exclude such testimony in some circumstances. The high court hasn't yet ruled.

Brinkley vows to promptly repay \$531K in back taxes

NEW YORK (AP)—Christie Brinkley vows she'll immediately repay the \$531,000 she owes in back taxes.



Brinkley

New York's Daily News recently reported the Internal Revenue Service has filed a tax lien against the supermodel.

Brinkley says in a statement the lien was a "result of an error" and pledges it will be paid in full by Wednesday.

Brinkley says she regrets not paying more attention to her accounting. She says she's been focused on her parents, who are dealing with "serious health issues."

The 57-year-old Brinkley was married to Billy Joel and appeared in his "Uptown Girl" video. She made her Broadway debut this year playing Roxie Hart in the musical "Chicago."

She says she considers herself "lucky to have been employed" since she was 17 years old.

Scottish artist Boyce wins Turner Prize

LONDON (AP)—A Scottish artist whose work harks back to the innovators of 20th century Modernism has won this year's Turner Prize—Britain's best-known and most provocative art award.

Martin Boyce, 44, on Monday collected the 25,000-pound (\$41,000) prize, awarded annually to a British artist under 50.

Boyce was nominated for his solo exhibition in Zurich, which included a stark installation compared to an indoor park complete with paper leaves. The jury praised Boyce for his contribution to contemporary artists' interest in historic modernism, and said he developed and found new directions using his knowledge of the field.

Boyce's installation "confirmed the consistency of his work while opening up a new sense of poetry," prize organizers said in a statement.

"It's about passing through the space and the space between the sculptures as much as the sculptures themselves," Boyce said about his work. On receiving the award, he said: "It's amazing, I'm shocked. I really didn't expect it."

He was the bookmakers' favorite to win the award, which was presented by photographer Mario Testino.

Three other shortlisted artists—the sculptor Karla Black, video artist Hilary Lloyd and painter George Shaw—won 5,000 pounds each.

The Turner Prize, named after 19th-century landscape painter J.M.W. Turner, was established in 1984 to honor younger British artists.

The prize often sparks controversy about the value of modern art and attracts bets from art-loving gamblers. Past winners include "Brit Art" upstarts such as transvestite potter Grayson Perry, dung-daubing painter Chris Ofili and shark pickler Damien Hirst.

An exhibition showcasing the shortlisted entries is held at the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art in the northeastern English town of Gateshead. It was just the second time in the prize's 27-year history that the prize-giving ceremony and exhibition had been held outside London.



Boyce

*In Loving Memory of
our Dearly Beloved*

Camilo Arellano Orallo

Lovingly known as "Milo"

October 28, 1943 – December 4, 2011

His memory will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife:

Cirila Orallo

Children:

Imelda Orallo Reyes
Marilou Orallo Johnson
Richard Orallo
Rhoda Marie Orallo Ibanez
Camille Orallo

Brother & Sisters:

Mary Layson
Flordelisa Mortel
Juanito Orallo
Luisa Orallo

*He will also be deeply missed by his
numerous relatives and friends.*

Nightly rosaries are being prayed at 8:00pm
at Kristo Rai Church, Garapan.

On Tuesday, December 13, 2011 his remains
will be escorted from CHC to Kristo Rai Church
for final viewing beginning at 7:30am,
immediately followed by a Mass at 10:00am.
The body will be escorted to Cabrera
Funeral Homes right after and will
be transported to the Philippines
the next morning.

Burial will be on December 17, 2011 at
Magsakay Cemetery in Paombong,
Bulacan.

*Your prayers, thoughts, and presence
are highly appreciated.*

The Family



Pakistan actress sues over nude magazine photos

NEW DELHI (AP)—Pakistani actress Veena Malik is suing a popular Indian men's magazine for millions of dollars, accusing it of publishing photos she says were doctored to make her appear nude, her lawyer said Monday.

Malik's racy images in the December issue of FHM India has triggered a fury across her conservative Islamic country, with one cleric calling them a "shame for all Muslims."

The photo essay appears to make light of the military rivalry between India and Pakistan, nuclear-armed neighbors who have fought three wars.

In the magazine's cover photo, Malik is shown wearing no clothing, but with her arms and legs discreetly positioned to keep her covered. She has the letters ISI stenciled on her arm, representing Pakistan's powerful spy agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence agency.

In a second photo, she is lying on a camouflage military helmet and in a third she is wearing what appears to be a green ammunition belt and pretending to pull the pin out of a grenade with her teeth. She appears to be topless in those images.

Malik's lawyer, Ayaz Bilal,



A man reads the December issue of FHM India, a popular Indian men's magazine that has a photograph of Pakistani actress Veena Malik on the cover at a way side stall in Mumbai, India, Monday, Dec. 5, 2011.

wala, denied the nude cover photo was authentic and said Malik was wearing underwear

throughout the entire shoot. He sent notice to the magazine and was filing papers in the Mumbai

High Court demanding all copies of the magazine be removed from newsstands, he said. The

suit was also seeking 100 million rupees (\$2 million) in damages. "She has been cheated, and

there has been tampering, and the photographs have been morphed," he said. "She has not posed in the manner in which she has been shown."

He also disputed the magazine's assertion that it possessed a video of the shoot that would prove the photos were real.

FHM India editor Kabeer Sharma insisted the photos were authentic and said he had just come out of a meeting with the magazine's lawyers where they watched the video of the photo session proving his case.

"It's a considered decision on our part not to make that video public because of the nature of the video," he said.

Sharma said the magazine had received the legal notice.

"The allegations are entirely false and we are investigating various options, including a countersuit," he said.

Malik courted controversy last year when she participated in India's "Bigg Boss" reality show, where minor celebrities are locked in a house together. Conservative Pakistani clerics lambasted her both for appearing on a show in arch-rival India and for appearing to canoodle with an Indian actor in the house.

Jason Aldean parties hard with 6 wins at ACAs

By CHRIS TALBOTT
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

The American Country Awards were Jason Aldean's kinda party.

Country music's newest superstar won six awards Monday in Las Vegas, including the night's top honors artist of the year and record of the year for "My Kinda Party."

It's true, 2010 has been a non-stop party for Aldean. More than a million fans turned out for his arena tour, his platinum album has spawned four hits so far and the awards are starting to pile up after years of being ignored.

"This is getting a little ridiculous now," Aldean said on his second visit to the stage. "I don't know what else to say. It's been a crazy year."

Carrie Underwood's fans came through for her again at the fan-voted awards a year after she was the top winner on the inaugural show with six trophies. She picked up three awards this year, including female artist of the year and female single of the year for "Mama's Song."

"You guys vote like crazy," Underwood said during her second trip to the stage.

As expected, the show's focus was mostly on country music's emerging stars. Thompson Square also won three trophies—blue Fender Telecasters with an embossed silhouette of the U.S. The husband-and-wife duo of Shawna and Kiefer Thompson rode their breakthrough single "Are You Going to Kiss Me Or Not?" to group single, new artist single and new artist video of



Jason Aldean accepts the album of the year award for "My Kinda Party" during the 45th Annual CMA Awards in Nashville, Tenn., on Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2011.

the year awards.

"This is the first time we've won anything, so be patient," Kiefer Thompson joked.

Chris Young won two awards, breakthrough artist and single of the year for "Voices." "American Idol" winner Scotty McCreery was named new artist of the year and Lady Antebellum won a second straight group of the year.

Along with the night's top two honors, Aldean also was named touring artist of the year and won male single of the year for "My Kinda Party" and vocal collaboration single of the year for "Don't You Wanna Stay" with Kelly Clarkson.

Alabama won a Greatest Hits Award and Toby Keith was named artist of the decade as the most-played country star on radio over the past 10 years.

Blake Shelton won video of the year for "Who Are You When I'm Not Looking." He dedicated the win to his father, Dick, who is in the hospital with pneumonia. He then appeared to tear up at the end of his performance of "God Gave Me You."

"I want to say 'hi' to my dad back home," Shelton said. "He's been having a pretty rough couple of weeks. I know he's watching back at home and I love you, dad, and want to dedicate this to you."

Lawmaker compares tabloids' ethics to Auschwitz

By DAVID STRINGER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—A British lawmaker has compared the business ethics of some of Britain's tabloids to a notorious Nazi concentration camp at a Parliamentary hearing on newspaper excesses.

The shocking comparison was made Monday by Conservative Party lawmaker Zac Goldsmith, who testified along with "Four Weddings and a Funeral" star Hugh Grant, comedian Steve Coogan and ex-Formula One racing chief Max Mosley.

When asked if judges ruling in libel or privacy cases should consider whether their decisions might lead to the financial collapse of newspapers found to be at fault, Goldsmith said that "immoral or unethical" businesses should either change or go out of business.

"No one said that Auschwitz should have been kept open because it created jobs," said Goldsmith, referring to the Nazi death camp in Poland.

As part of an inquiry into phone hacking by Britain's tabloids, the Parliamentary committee is gathering evidence about the value of privacy laws and the use of legal gag orders that have been accused of stifling the media.

Media outlets have expressed alarm at the increasing use of injunctions and so-called "super-injunctions"—court orders which not only ban reporting of details of a specific case, but often forbid any public mention that an injunction exists.

Goldsmith's private life became the subject of tabloid scrutiny during the break up of his marriage in 2010. He told the panel he had previously secured a court injunction to prevent reporting of the fact his email account, and those of his then wife and his sister, had been hacked. The legislator has previously discussed how he took the legal action amid fears newspapers would disclose contents of the emails.

Britain's phone hacking scandal, which has exposed how the private voice mail messages of bereaved parents and celebrity figures were illegally accessed, has led to a raft of inquiries into the country's written press. Britain's broadcast media are scrutinized by a national regulator, while the written media has a system of self-regulation facing criticism for being too lax.

A government commissioned panel, led by judge Brian Leveson, had already taken evidence from Grant, Mosley and Coogan, all of whom have tangled with Britain's tabloids and been vocal in their calls for tighter press regulation.

Grant told lawmakers Monday that he was only able to stop photographers hassling Tinglan Hong, an actress and the mother of his baby daughter, by taking out a court injunction.

The actor said he had first tried to reason with photographers, but was forced to turn to the courts.

"I said do you think this is something grown men should be doing, terrorizing a new

mother and her baby? They just said 'Show us the baby,'" Grant told the committee hearing.

Grant told lawmakers his car had been vandalized after he had remonstrated with photographers. "I have been arrested twice and had my car Stanley-knifed over every surface once in retribution," he said.

Mosley and Coogan said they were concerned that the ability to constrain the press through the courts was only open to the rich.

Coogan, who starred in movies "Night at the Museum" and "24 Hour Party People," said he had spent around 20,000 pounds (\$32,000) in legal fees in an attempt to prevent a newspaper publishing an article about a family member.

A newspaper "was going to publish a story about a member of my family, not about me, that was no way in the public interest," Coogan said. "The correspondence that led to them not publishing cost me between 15,000 and 20,000 pounds."

Mosley won damages from the now-defunct News of The World tabloid after it wrongly alleged he had participated in a Nazi-themed orgy. In a legal case, Mosley acknowledged the orgy but denied it had any Nazi theme.

"I was told if I won, it would cost me tens of thousands of pounds (dollars). If I lost it would cost me one million pounds," Mosley said.

"To put at risk one million pounds is something very few people can do, or would do."

Rosie O'Donnell is engaged to girlfriend



AP
In this Sept. 12, 2011 file photo, TV personality Giuliana Rancic attends the Rachel Zoe Spring 2012 fashion show during Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in New York.

E! News host Giuliana Rancic announces double mastectomy

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Six weeks after revealing she has breast cancer, E! News host Giuliana Rancic says she will have a double mastectomy.

The 37-year-old made the announcement Monday on NBC's "Today" show.

"It was not an easy decision but it was the best decision for me," she said.

She plans to have the surgery next week and said she hopes to be recovered by New Year's Eve, when she and husband Bill Rancic are planning to be in Times Square.

Rancic said she received an

"overwhelming outpouring of love, prayers and support" after announcing her breast cancer diagnosis in October.

"I want to make sure to thank everyone and give them an update for being so kind and loving and supportive," she said Monday.

E! expressed its support for Rancic in a statement Monday.

"Giuliana's strength continues to amaze us," the network said. "We admire her courage and are proud to stand by her side through every step on her path to full recovery."

CHICAGO (AP)—Rosie O'Donnell and her girlfriend, Michelle Rounds, are engaged.

O'Donnell's publicist and a spokesman for the Oprah Winfrey Network say the host of "The Rosie Show" told her studio audience about the engagement Monday during a commercial break. The Emmy Award-winning talk show host's new program debuted in September. She tapes in Winfrey's former Chicago studio.

Rounds is a 40-year-old headhunter for an information technology company. O'Donnell is a mother of four and was previously married. She and former partner Kelli Carpenter publicly wed in San Francisco in 2004, two weeks after the mayor authorized granting marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The licenses were later voided by the California Supreme Court.



AP
In this April 11, 2011 file photo, television personality Rosie O'Donnell attends the New York Women in Communications' 2011 Matrix Awards in New York.

O'Donnell's publicist says a wedding date hasn't been set.

Peter Weller of 'Robocop' fame joins 'Star Trek' sequel

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Robocop" actor Peter Weller is joining the cast of director J.J. Abrams' big-screen "Star Trek" sequel.

An APA talent agency spokesman for Weller said Monday the actor's role is a principal one in the film, but details were being kept under wraps.

Weller's sci-fi credentials include the "Robocop" films and

the TV series "Odyssey 5." He has guest-starred on shows including "Dexter," "Fringe" and "Psych."

His directing credits include "Monk" and the TV movie "Elmore Leonard's Gold Coast."

The second "Star Trek" film will include the return of stars Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto. The film is set for a May 2013 premiere.

'Rango,' 'Puss,' 'Tintin' earn Annie nominations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Johnny Depp's "Rango," Anne Hathaway's "Rio," Antonio Banderas' "Puss in Boots" and Steven Spielberg's "The Adventures of Tintin" are among movies competing for best-animated film at the Annie Awards.

The 10 nominees announced Monday also include James McAvoy's "Arthur Christmas," Owen Wilson's "Cars 2," Jack Black's "Kung Fu Panda 2" and three overseas contenders: "A

Cat in Paris," "Arrugas" and "Chico & Rita."

Cast members earning voice-acting nominations for the Annie Awards include "Arthur Christmas" co-stars Bill Nighy and Ashley Jensen, "Kung Fu Panda 2" co-stars Gary Oldman and James Hong and "Puss in Boots" co-star Zach Galifianakis.

Presented by the International Animated Film Society, the Annie Awards will be handed out Feb. 4 at a ceremony in Los Angeles.

Husband is aging too well for worrying wife to handle

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: When I married my husband, "Mason," 30 years ago, I was the only girl he could get. He was a great catch by my standards—and still is. But back then nobody else wanted him but me, which was fine with me. I don't like competition.

We have had a great life together up until the last 10 years or so. Mason is aging gracefully, and there's something about him now that every woman is suddenly interested in. They all treat him like he's a new toy. They fawn over him and I become invisible.

We don't get out much, and I used to think I wanted to go out more—but now I just want to stay home and hide my husband inside. The real problem is, Mason loves the attention. It could be what he always wanted. I don't know how to handle this without getting my feelings hurt, pouting and being incredibly jealous. He gives me no reason to think he'll be unfaithful, but I can't help but worry. Help!

WIFE OF A LATE BLOOMER

DEAR WIFE: Congratulations. You are now a member of a "club" comprised of spouses living in the shadows of actors, politicians, moguls, etc. However, your self-esteem issues could create real problems for you and your husband if you don't learn to deal with them.

You weren't the "only woman Mason could get"—you're the woman Mason **CHOSE** to spend his life with. The sooner you accept that, the better off both of you will be. If you can't do it on your own, counseling could help because hiding is not the answer.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My son and daughter-in-law live like pigs. Neither one of them was raised that way. They live in a beautiful home that literally smells like a litter box. I would look the other way or not visit, but now they have four children.

Not only are my grandchildren unkempt and dirty—dirty clothes, smelly shoes, unwashed hair—but my son and his wife foist their parenting duties off on their daughter, who's only 10. It's HER job to get her brothers up and bathed, changed, dressed and fed so Mom and Dad can sleep late. The poor girl is exhausted all the time. She doesn't always have the time to brush her own hair/teeth before school. She's often made fun of.

My son sees nothing wrong with these "chores," and I'm afraid to say anything because I know my daughter-in-law will cut me off from the kids. What's sad is my son allows it. Am I crazy? Please help.

DESPERATE GRANDMA ON THE EAST COAST

DEAR DESPERATE GRANDMA: You're not crazy; you're a caring grandmother who can't stand seeing her grandchildren neglected. Now pick up the phone and call Childhelp. The toll-free number is 800-422-4453. The advocate who answers the call can give you information about agencies that can help, and your confidentiality will be protected.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My father-in-law drops by our house nearly every weekend. He arrives so early that we're usually still in bed. He also rides a motorcycle that sounds like a jet engine and disturbs our neighbors.

I have asked my husband several times to talk to his dad about these early morning visits. He refuses to say anything. We have two kids who are 4 and 9 months. Sleep is something we cherish. What do I do?

ANNOYED DAUGHTER-IN-LAW IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: Because your husband refuses to stand up and explain to his father that he needs to come at a specific time—like 11 o'clock—that task now falls to YOU. Speak up!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Ex-Miss USA Fakih arrested on drunk driving charge

HIGHLAND PARK, Michigan (AP)—A lawyer for former Miss USA Rima Fakih says police in Michigan arrested his client on a drunken driving charge. Doraid Elder tells the Detroit Free Press newspaper that Fakih is "very saddened and very apologetic for the situation that she is in right now." Elder says police arrested Fakih early Saturday. The 26-year-old Fakih was the first Arab American winner ever. She was born in Lebanon and raised in New York. She won the Miss USA Pageant in 2010, and her reign ended in June.

Amanda Knox hires DC lawyer as literary agent

SEATTLE (AP)—Amanda Knox says she's hired a Wash-

ington, D.C., lawyer to help her land a book deal after an Italian court cleared her and her ex-boyfriend in the killing of her British roommate. Knox family spokesman Dave Marriott says Robert Barnett will represent Knox in discussions with publishers and help her evaluate other opportunities. Barnett has represented the literary interests of U.S. Presidents Barack Obama, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, as well as former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin. Knox returned to her hometown of Seattle in October after she was cleared in Meredith Kercher's death. The 24-year-old had been in custody since 2007, and experts have suggested she could score a seven-figure book deal. She hasn't granted any interviews since her release.

Rita Hayworth's grandson found dead in NYC home

NEW YORK (AP)—A grandson of the late screen actress Rita Hayworth has been found dead in an apparent suicide in New York City. Police say 25-year-old Andrew Embiricos was discovered in his Manhattan apartment Sunday night with a bag over his head. He was pronounced dead at the scene. No crime is suspected. A spokeswoman for the medical examiner's office says the cause of his death is pending autopsy results. Embiricos was the son of Hayworth's daughter Yasmin Aga Khan, a philanthropist known for publicizing the plight of those suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Hayworth was a legendary beauty who rose to fame in the

1940s and '50s in movies such as "Cover Girl" and "Gilda." She died in 1987 of Alzheimer's disease at age 68.

Sen. Marco Rubio has book deal for memoir

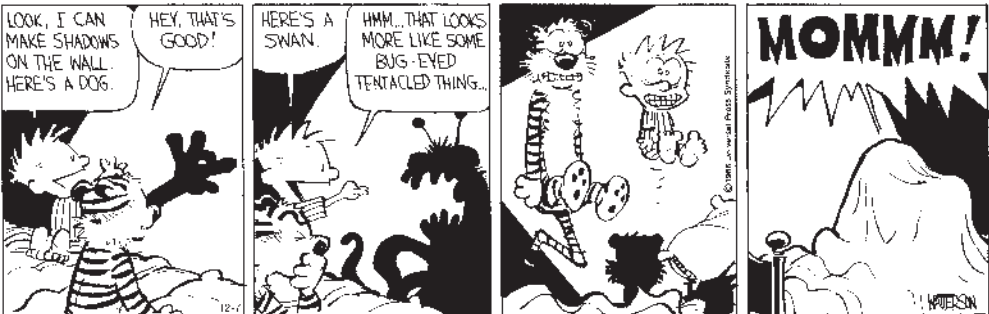
NEW YORK (AP)—Sen. Marco Rubio has a book deal. The Florida Republican has signed with Sentinel, a conservative imprint of Penguin Group (USA), for a memoir tentatively scheduled for Fall 2012. Sentinel announced Monday that the book was currently untitled. Rubio, 40, is a tea party favorite who has often been mentioned as possible running mate on the 2012 GOP presidential ticket. The Cuban-American Rubio has said he would not accept such an offer because he's focused on being a U.S. senator.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

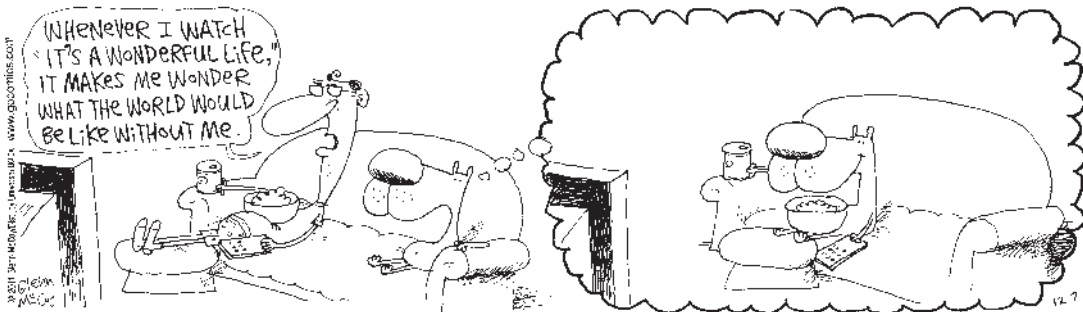
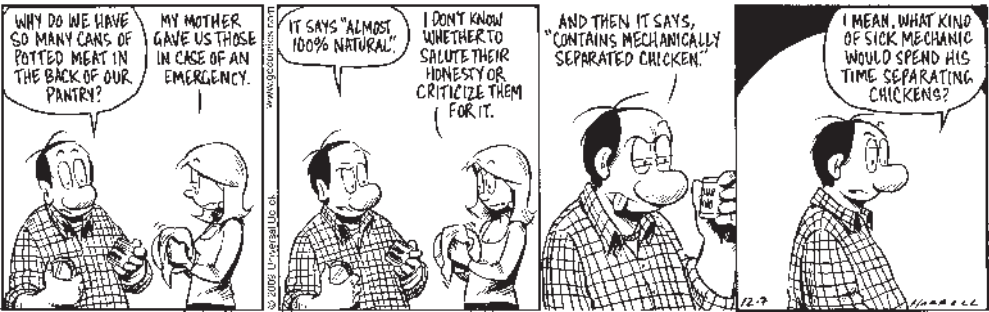
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 45 Move up and down 1 Houston acronym 5 Sternward 8 Streetcar need 12 Winged 13 — goo gai pan 14 Like a moray 15 End of an illness 17 Performances 18 Sycophants 19 Implant 21 Help 22 Entrance 23 Melody 26 Allow 28 Wild West show 31 "Star —" 33 Flop 35 Ginormous 36 Unspoken 38 Wager 40 Decay 41 Rhyming tributes 43 Airport overseer (Abbr.)

DOWN 1 — a soul (nobody) 2 Sheltered

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterdays answer 12-7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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15				16				17		
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45	46					47		48	49	50
51				52	53					
54				55				56		
57				58				59		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Aaron Carter, 24; C. Thomas Howell, 45; Tom Waits, 62; Ellen Burstyn, 79.

Happy Birthday: Take time sorting through what you want and what you don't. Conservative action will be key to staying on top of your situation and avoiding stressful encounters. You may want change, but unless it is the right move, you are best to sit and wait for something better to come along. Don't overestimate or underestimate the competition. Your numbers are 7, 13, 21, 27, 30, 38, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look at every possibility. Try expanding what you have to offer and presenting a new version of something you have done in the past. A combination of the past and present will lead to a prosperous future. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put love on a pedestal and do everything in your power to make someone you care for feel good about life. Your thoughtfulness will bring emotions to the surface and prompt rewards that will lead to a bright future. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take care of financial matters. Act conservatively now so you will be able to deal with burdens at the end of the year when the bills need to be paid. Knowing your limitations will help keep things under control. Don't mess with authority. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Show your strengths and lend a hand. Your contributions will help you prove a point and

show your capabilities. The little extras you do will also help you prepare for upcoming events you plan to host at home. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Too much of anything will work against you. Modesty, especially when dealing with people you work with, will be a must if you don't want to look foolish or frivolous. You can make a difference and initiate change by offering honest opinions. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Getting together with peers for a little festive cheer will do you good and can lead to an entertaining suggestion that intrigues you. Love is in the stars, along with self-improvement projects and taking action. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Fix up your digs. You need to feel comfortable in your space if you intend to get things done. Love is on the rise, and matters pertaining to home and family should be taken care of before you relax or have fun. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Give credit to others. You don't have to do everything on your own. Someone will be quite capable to take over, giving you a break and a chance to reflect on the year gone by. Your status is heading for a hike. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Travel to a place you haven't seen in a while to revisit dreams, hopes and past wishes. An old friend or lover will be disgruntled but happy to see you. Offer a lifeline to someone who needs your help. ***

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You know what you must do, but it won't be easy to get past the people in charge. Use finesse and knowledge to get your way. Arguing will work against you. A property deal, investment or purchase will turn out favorably. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep things simple. Too much of anything will not go well. You don't have to spend a lot to make an impression. Do extra work if it will bring more work or income your way. Altering your vocational direction will have benefits. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't tip your hand. Actions are what will count at the end of the day. A partnership will be enhanced if you are progressive, productive and proficient. Show everyone how talented you are. ****

Birthday Baby: You are determined, stubborn and focused on accomplishment.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

			4	6						
					4					
			1	5	3	7	6			
		3			2				5	
1										8
8										4
5										9
		2			8				3	
			6	2		1	7			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/17 ©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	6	5	9	1	3	2	7	4
4	1	9	2	7	5	3	8	6
2	3	7	6	8	4	9	1	5
6	8	2	1	3	9	4	5	7
3	9	4	7	5	6	1	2	8
5	7	1	8	4	2	6	9	3
9	4	8	3	2	7	5	6	1
1	5	6	4	9	8	7	3	2
7	2	3	5	6	1	8	4	9

WONDERWORD By DAVID QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR DEC. 7, 1941 Sol: 12 letters

U W O H R S O D T R O H S S U
E H E T O S N L L M O R E U S
E W A R O A A O U N U P N N S
R F N O S M G G O O I O A R M
O J O T E T A R T H I R L I I
I A Z S V N N M S T E E P S S
E P I E E I S E A T C Z S E S
S A R N L M L R E Y A I R T O
R N A I T T O V O L L S E U
E T L R T M M D W V F E S B R
I N O A E N U O E A I R I I I
R E B M A T D R V C V V U R K
R M M V Y L E M M I K E R T N
A O Y R A T I L I M E D C U I
C M S I O R E H L A I C E P S

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Arizona, Battleship, Carriers, Commemoration, Cruisers, Deck, Duty, Flag, Gold, Heroism, Honor, Japan, Kimmel, Marines, Mass, Military, Mint, Moment, Movie, Nagano, Nagumo, Navy, Oahu, Planes, Roosevelt, Served, Short, Silver, Sink, Special, Sunrise, Survivors, Symbol, Tojo, Tours, Tribute, USS Missouri, Veterans, War, Wave, Yamamoto, Zero

Yesterday's Answer: Mughal

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Position: (1) Sales Clerk Salary: \$5.05 per hour

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-0054
-v-	
DANIEL JOSEPH M. CABRERA and MAGDALENA S. CABRERA, Defendants.	SEVENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 19, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: (a) Lot No. 005 1 180, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 005 1 02, the original of which was recorded March 11, 1983, as Document No. 16707, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan; and (b) Tract No. 225840-1-1, located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on DLS Check No. 2119/92, deeded to Daniel Muna Cabrera on August 24, 1998, and recorded as File No. 99-2096 on September 3, 1999.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 30, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 14th day of November, 2011:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

This position is located at the Health Professional Corporation dba Saipan Health clinic at Chalan Kiya, Saipan.

(1) MIDWIFE:

This position will be under the direct supervision of the OBGYN, Supervising Physician. Has a range of responsibilities, including the care of mother and baby, adhering to clinic and hospital policy and maintaining an awareness of issues such as health and safety. Typical work activities include:

- Diagnosing, monitoring and examining women during pregnancy.
- Developing, assessing an evaluating individual programs of care;
- Providing full antenatal care, including screening tests in the clinic
- Identifying high risk pregnancies and making referrals to doctors and other medical specialists;
- Arranging and providing parenting and health education for the woman, her partner and family members
- Encouraging participation of family members in the birth to support the mother and enhance both mother/baby bonding and family relationships.
- Providing counseling and advice following events such as miscarriage, termination, stillbirth, neonatal abnormality and neonatal death;
- Supervising and assisting mothers in labour, monitoring the condition of the fetus and using knowledge of drugs and pain management;
- Giving support and advice on the daily care of the baby, including breast feeding, bathing and making up feeds;
- Providing advice and guidance on a safe and timely transfer home;
- Liaising with agencies and other health and social care professionals to ensure continuity of case.
- Participating in the training and supervision of junior colleagues.

- Graduate from School of Nursing
- Must have CNMI Medical Professional Licensing Board for midwife
- Must have 3 years of more experience in the field of Midwifery
- Must have certification in Midwife and Nursing and have passed qualifying examination certificate in nursing

Please submit resume or pick-up application at Saipan health Clinic or send email to Connie Aldan or Judy Arriola at hpcshc@pticom.com. No phone calls please.

Saipan Health clinic and St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc. at Chalan Kiya, Saipan

Job Vacancy Announcement

PHYSICIAN (01)

This position will be under the direct supervision of the Medical Director and must be able to do the following:

- Responds and diagnose medical/health problems presented by patients and prescribe and administer treatments for patients and prescribe and administer treatments for patients suffering from injuries and diseases.
- Examines patients, obtain medical histories, order, perform and interpret diagnostic tests.
- Counsel patients on diet, hygiene and preventive healthcare.
- Maintain confidentiality and impartiality.
- Organize preventive health programs for individual patients.
- Provides special clinics for specific conditions for certain groups and/or refer patients to public health or other healthcare entities e.g. diabetes, smoking cessation, new babies.
- Commissioning healthcare by liaising with medical professionals in the community and hospitals.
- Promotes health education in conjunction with other health professionals.
- Keeping up to date with medical developments, new drugs, treatments and medications including complimentary medicines.
- Provides medical assistants to hemodialysis patients and confer with the Medical Director and Nephrologists on any medical problems presented by the patients.

- Graduate from School of Medicine
- Must pass U.S. Medical Licensing Exam
- Must have 2 years or more experience in the field of medicine.
- Must be fluent in English

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Rivers, Chargers gouge reeling Jaguars, 38-14



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—No matter how many interceptions he threw, no matter how many turnovers he committed, Philip Rivers refused to play it safe.

He knew things would change.

They finally did. On “Monday Night Football” no less, and with his San Diego Chargers in the deepest of holes.

Rivers threw for 294 yards and three touchdowns, burning Jacksonville’s depleted secondary early and often, and the Chargers beat the Jaguars 38-14 to snap a six-game losing streak.

The Chargers (5-7) had been waiting for the three-time Pro Bowl selection to return to form. Some questioned whether it would happen this season. But Rivers never lost faith even though he leads the NFL in interceptions (17) and turnovers (21) and was a key part of the team’s disappointing slide.

“It’s been a rough six weeks,” Rivers said. “I haven’t put a complete game together, but I don’t care about the numbers. I just want to win.”

Rivers was nearly perfect against Jacksonville (3-9), adding to the team’s tumultuous week.

He completed 22 of 28 passes—hooking up with Vincent Brown, Vincent Jackson and Malcolm Floyd for long scores—before sitting out the final few minutes. Rivers finished with a 146.1 QB rating, by far his highest of the season.

The Chargers scored on five of their first six drives, then sent most of the home crowd scrambling for the exits with Ryan Mathews’ 31-yard TD run in the fourth. Mathews ran 13 times for 112 yards.

“That’s the type of chemistry coming into this season we knew we had,” tight end Antonio Gates said. “We stayed on course despite what we’ve been through these last six weeks. That we were able to get a win tonight speaks volumes for this team.”

It was a much-needed victory for a team that trails Denver and Oakland by two games in the AFC West with four to play.

And it was another blow to the Jaguars, who endured the most sweeping changes in the 17-year history of the franchise last week.

Team owner Wayne Weaver fired coach Jack Del Rio and announced he was selling the club to Illinois businessman Shahid Khan. Interim coach Mel Tucker fired receivers coach Johnny Cox, re-assigned quarterbacks coach Mike Sheppard and waived starting receiver Jason Hill.

The moves seemed to invigorate a franchise that had seemingly gone stale in Del Rio’s ninth season. Fans showed up energized for a prime-time



San Diego Chargers running back Mike Tolbert (35) celebrates a 13-yard touchdown run against the Jacksonville Jaguars during the first half of an NFL football game Monday, Dec. 5, 2011, in Jacksonville, Fla.

game that signaled the start of a new era. Some wore “Yes We Khan” T-shirts. Other donned fake mustaches to emulate the owner-in-waiting.

It made little difference on the field, mostly because Jacksonville’s defensive injuries proved too much to overcome.

The Jaguars played without their top three cornerbacks—Rashean Mathis, Derek Cox and

Will Middleton—and lost safety Dwight Lowery (shoulder) and defensive end John Chick (knee) during the game.

“No excuses here,” Tucker said. “We won’t allow ourselves to go down that road.”

Rivers took advantage of the injuries, picking on a pair of cornerbacks who were signed off the street in recent weeks.

Rivers threw a 22-yard TD pass to Brown and a 35-yarder to Jackson on the final two drives of the first half as the Chargers overcame a brief deficit to seize control. Those scores came in the final 2:32 of the half.

The opening drive of the third quarter didn’t take long, either. On the fifth play, Rivers found Floyd deep down the right sideline for a 52-yard score. Floyd, activated Monday night after missing six games with a hip injury, beat Ashton Youboty badly on the play. Floyd finished with four receptions for 108 yards.

“He’s just an outstanding player,” Chargers coach Norv Turner said of Rivers. “Like any quarterback, it starts with protection, with the guys up front. He’s missed Malcom. We’ve missed Malcom. When Philip has all his guys, and he can operate like he did today, he’s as good as anybody.”

It was the second TD given up by Youboty, who was replaced on the next possession by Morgan Trent, signed five days ago.

The biggest cheer for the Jaguars came late in the third quarter, when Weaver was shown on the stadium’s large video board. Weaver and his wife received a standing ovation.

The \$760 million sale must be approved by the NFL later this month. Khan chose not to attend the game, which turned out to be a good move.

“I don’t think anyone has been through anything like that,” said Maurice Jones-Drew, who finished with 188 total yards. “This is a \$9 billion business. Other than that, we played football. We’ve got to figure out how to keep going for four quarters and not two.”

Jones-Drew was the lone offensive star for Jacksonville—again. He finished with 97 yards rushing and 91 yards receiving. He leads the NFL in rushing with 1,137 yards.

MJD caught a 9-yard touchdown pass from Blaine Gabbert to cap a 79-yard drive at the start of the second quarter. The Jaguars managed only 27 yards in the opening quarter.

After a three-and-out by the Chargers, Gabbert and Drew hooked up on a 48-yard shovel pass. It was a beautifully executed play, with Gabbert flicking the ball five yards with his left hand to Drew, who had the middle of the field all to himself and ran down to the 4-yard line.

Chargers cornerback Antoine Cason broke up a potential touchdown pass to Jarett Dillard, but on third-and-goal from the 5, Gabbert found Cecil Shorts in the back corner of the end zone to give the Jaguars a 14-10 lead.

It was all San Diego after that, mostly due to Rivers.

Luck, Griffin, Richardson lead Heisman finalists



NEWYORK (AP)—Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck entered the season as the overwhelming favorite to win the Heisman Trophy.

He will head to New York for the presentation of college football’s most famous player of the year award having relinquished front-runner status to another quarterback—one known as RG3.

Luck, along with Robert Griffin III, Trent Richardson, Tyrann Mathieu and Montee Ball are the Heisman finalists. The group, announced Monday on ESPN, will be at the presentation Saturday night in Manhattan.

It’s a return trip for Luck, the only repeat finalist this season, while Griffin is the first Baylor player to get an invite to the ceremony. The school has never had a player finish better than fourth in the Heisman voting, but now it seems to have the favorite.

“I’m sure it will be a really close vote,” Griffin told reporters in Waco, Texas, after watching the announcement with teammates and coaches.

Richardson is the second Alabama running back to be a finalist in the past three years. Former teammate Mark Ingram won the Heisman in 2009.

Ball has scored 38 touchdowns for Wiscon-

sin and needs one more to match Barry Sanders’ NCAA record.

Mathieu, the LSU defensive back nicknamed “Honey Badger,” has made numerous game-changing plays for the top-ranked Tigers.

The field was deep this season and several deserving players didn’t make the cut. Most notable, Boise State quarterback Kellen Moore, a finalist last season, Southern California quarterback Matt Barkley and Houston’s record-breaking passer, Case Keenum, did not receive enough votes to be among the final five.

Ballots from the 926 voters, mostly media members and former winners, were due Monday evening.

Luck was the Heisman runner-up to Auburn’s Cam Newton last year and passed up a chance to be the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft to return to Stanford for his junior season. From the moment he made the decision to stay in school in January, he became the odds-on favorite to win the big bronze statue.

Luck is looking to become Stanford’s second Heisman winner, joining quarterback Jim Plunkett, who won in 1970.

“It would mean a lot,” Luck said in an interview on ESPN. “I would mean a great deal for the university. Mean a lot to me and a great deal to the

football program, as well.”

He had another stellar season, passing for 3,170 yards with 35 touchdowns while leading the Cardinal to an 11-1 record and a second straight BCS bid. But the competition has been fierce and numerous contenders emerged.

The prognosticators now have Griffin as the most likely winner.

Heismanpundit.com, which has successfully predicted the past four winners with a straw poll of 13 voters, had Griffin as its top vote-getter on Monday. Luck was second and Richardson third.

Stiffarmtrophy.com, which compiles ballots from voters who make their choices public and has predicted the past nine winners, had Griffin winning by a comfortable margin over Luck, with Richardson third.

Griffin leads the nation in passer rating (192.3), with 3,998 yards and 36 touchdowns. He has also run for 644 yards and nine touchdowns. And much like Luck, Griffin has led a long-struggling program to its greatest success in decades. Baylor is 9-3 this season, its first nine-win season since 1986, including its first victory against Oklahoma.

“Baylor nation we’re in there,” Griffin said. “Now we just got to try to snatch it. Hopefully the vote turns out our way.

“Being invited is an honor. It’s not all that we want, but it’s a starting spot.”

The best showing a Baylor player has had in the Heisman voting was quarterback Don Trull’s fourth-place finish in 1963.

Richardson has been the unquestioned offensive engine for No. 2 Alabama. He’s fifth in the nation in rushing at 131.9 yards per game and tied for fifth in touchdowns with 23. Richardson and the Crimson Tide will meet Mathieu and LSU in the BCS championship game on Jan. 9 in New Orleans.

The sophomore cornerback is the second defensive player to be a Heisman finalist in the past three years. Defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh of Nebraska finished fourth in 2009.

Mathieu, though, is more like Charles Woodson, the do-it-all defensive back who won the 1997 Heisman for Michigan.

Mathieu has forced five fumbles, intercepted two passes and scored four touchdowns, including two long punt returns in LSU’s past two games against Arkansas and Georgia.

He also was suspended for a game this season for violating the team’s drug policy.

Ball has been a touchdown machine for Wisconsin and ranks fourth in rushing at 135.3 yards per game. He has 12 more touchdowns than the next best player in the nation and if he can tack on two more in the Rose Bowl against Oregon, he’ll break Sanders’ record.

Something's fishy—Marlins become big players



DALLAS (AP)—Jeffrey Loria watched the news conference from the second row, beaming like a proud parent as Heath Bell talked about his new love for the Miami Marlins and reuniting with Jose Reyes.

Trying to make a quick getaway, the owner was surrounded by reporters in the corridor who wanted to know who else would be migrating to South Florida: Albert Pujols, C.J. Wilson, Mark Buehrle?

Instead of trading away their stars, the Marlins have become the biggest player in the offseason market, the riches from their new ballpark a free-agent attraction.

"I want our team to be important," Loria said Monday as the winter meetings opened. "It's an energy city, and I think that's one of the things that brings the players there. They see the energy."

Bell's \$27 million, three-year contract was finalized, giving the renamed Marlins an All-Star closer. Reyes' \$106 million, six-year deal is a satisfactory physical from conclusion.

Pujols, who already has toured the new ballpark, would join Hanley Ramirez, Mike Stanton and Logan Morrison in the batting order—if the three-time NL MVP is willing to leave the St. Louis Cardinals, the only major league team he's played for.

"One big hitter?" Loria said out loud, his 2003 World Series ring flashing from his hand. "Well, I don't know about that, but there's a possibility of another player or two we're looking at."

Morrison, among others, was wondering.

"Just out of surgery. Everything went well," he wrote on Twitter after a minor knee operation, adding: "Have we signed Pujols yet?"

On the mound, Wilson or Buehrle could be added to a rotation that includes Josh Johnson (if healthy), Ricky Nolasco, Anibal Sanchez and Chris Volstad. While the Marlins are being aggressive, traditional big spenders such as the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox are moving cautiously, both with free agents and in the trade market.

"It's hey, take my older, expensive, over-the-hill guy for your young, better-performing guy," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "Let me think about that and get back to you, buddy."

Not that he's acting any differently with opening day four months away.

"I'm sure my ideas are as distasteful as the ones that I've received," he said.

As the four-day swap session began, the first piece of formal business was the annual meeting of the Hall of Fame Veterans Committee, which elected late Chicago Cubs third baseman Ron Santo. He'll be inducted in Cooperstown on July 22, along with any players elected by members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America on Jan. 9.

Pujols and Prince Fielder are the big bats on the market, and it remains unclear whether Pujols is willing to leave the World Series champions, where he's joined Stan Musial as a franchise icon.

"I always use the word hopeful," Cardinals chairman Bill DeWitt Jr. said. "I think it's presumptive to say that I'm optimistic because we obviously have continuing discussions and



In this Sept. 28, 2011 file photo, New York Mets' Jose Reyes reacts to cheers from fans before a baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds, at Citi Field in New York.

have a good dialogue going."

No longer watching players like Josh Beckett and Miguel Cabrera getting hooked by other teams, the Marlins now have the bait to attract baseball's best. They drew a major league-low 1.52 million fans to Sun Life Stadium, also home to the NFL's Miami Dolphins, last season. But Loria expects his team will draw 2.5 million to 3 million at the new ballpark.

"When you have a ballpark that seats

78,000, there's no great demand—and in the middle of nowhere in a football-configured stadium," he said. "But with a ballpark half the size of that and a baseball-only ballpark, you create a different kind of experience and we've seen it in our sales already."

The rest of baseball has taken notice of a team that hopes to overtake Philadelphia and Atlanta in the NL East.

"Good for the Marlins. I'm happy for them, and it's something, of course,

I'd like to see happen for us. But in the meantime, you can't cry about it," said Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon, whose team along with Oakland are the last two trying to get new ballparks.

Calling Reyes an "exciting young man" and Wilson a "very intelligent and very interesting guy," Loria said he thinks the Marlins can become a consistent winner in their retractable-roof ballpark, not far from downtown Miami.

"With the roster that we have and the

things we hope we can do, the outlook is very good," he said. "I'm not going to make any predictions. But we certainly want to be in position to compete seriously."

While the Marlins are poaching, other teams want to retain their stars. Texas may want Wilson back after he helped it come within one strike of the team's first World Series title.

"We basically felt they were going to test the market and we'd circle back to each other," general manager Jon Daniels said.

The Mets, plunging to losing records in all three seasons at Citi Field and plagued by losses from the Bernard Madoff Ponzi scheme, are cutting payroll from the \$140 million range in 2008 and 2009 to about \$100 million next year. General manager Sandy Alderson said the team lost \$70 million but wouldn't say whether it was all this year.

"When I took the job, my understanding was the payroll was not at a sustainable level, that it would have to come down somewhat," he said. "Perhaps it's had to come down a little more than I would have expected."

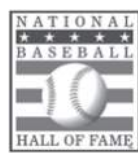
Reyes returns to Citi Field when the Marlins visit April 24. He'll be in their new uniforms with garish colors.

"Well, I was a little surprised they had that much money to burn," Mets manager Terry Collins said.

Elsewhere, the Los Angeles Dodgers agreed to a \$6 million, two-year contract with utilityman Jerry Hairston Jr. and neared an agreement with pitcher Aaron Harang.

Minnesota agreed to a \$4.75 million, one-year deal to keep closer Matt Capps, a person familiar with that deal said on condition of anonymity because it had not yet been announced.

Santo elected to Hall of Fame by veterans panel



DALLAS (AP)—Ron Santo always kept rooting for the causes dearest to him—for his Chicago Cubs to win the World Series, for doctors to find a cure for diabetes and for him to reach the Hall of Fame.

On Monday, Cooperstown finally came calling.

The barrel-chested third baseman who clicked his heels in victory was elected to the Hall, overwhelmingly chosen by the Veterans Committee nearly a year to the day after he died hoping for this very honor.

"It's really exciting because so many years that we had parties over to his house in spring training saying this is the year, I'd tell him this is the year you're going in," said Hall of Fame teammate Billy Williams, a member of the voting panel.

"The one thing, of course, is he's not here to enjoy it, but his family will. He long awaited this, and we're all happy. I know I'm happy, his family is happy, the fans of Chicago are happy," he said.

Santo was a nine-time All-Star, hit 342 home runs and won five Gold Gloves. He was a Cubs broadcaster for two decades, beloved by the home crowd for the way he eagerly cheered for his favorite team on the air, hollering "Yes! Yes!" or "All right!" after good plays and groaning "Oh, no!" or

"It's bad" when things went wrong.

Shortly after the announcement, Santo's flag—white with blue pin-stripes, plus his name and No. 10—was flying from the center pole atop the scoreboard at Wrigley Field.

"There was always kind of a missing piece of the puzzle of Cubs' history," team owner Tom Ricketts said.

Santo breezed in with 15 votes from the 16-member panel that met at baseball's winter meetings. It took 75 percent—12 votes—to get chosen.

"I've got tears in my eyes writing this: congrats to the Santo family on Ron's election to MLB Hall of Fame. A good day to be a Cub fan," tweeted Chicago-area rocker Billy Corgan, frontman for the Smashing Pumpkins.

Santo died Dec. 3, 2010, from complications of bladder cancer at age 70. He had diabetes, which eventually cost him both legs below the knees, and worked tirelessly to raise millions for research into the disease.

Williams was on the line when Santo's widow, Vicki, got the congratulatory phone call.

"Ron has passed, but it was always his dream, to even have this come to him after his passing. It just shows you can't give up," she said during a conference call from Arizona.

"All he said (was) I hope I get in in my lifetime, that's certainly a reasonable request for anybody who gets an honor as special as this one. Unfortun-

nately, it wasn't meant to be," she said. "With his lifetime every disappointment that came along, he was very disappointed."

Said daughter Linda Brown: "I know, even if my dad were here today, he would never reflect on any of the wrongdoings, so to speak. ... There would be no bitterness, it would just be him being happy, and I believe he is."

Santo joined former Cubs teammates Ernie Banks, Ferguson Jenkins and Williams in the Hall. That famed quartet did most everything at the Friendly Confines through the 1960s and early 1970s except bring a World Series to the ivy-covered ballpark.

"With Ernie, myself and Fergie, those players he played with ... to hear this kind of news today that he's inducted in the baseball Hall of Fame is really gratifying because so many times that we talked about it, it's a place he wanted to be," Williams said.

Santo will be inducted into Cooperstown on July 22, along with any players elected by members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America on Jan. 9. Bernie Williams joins Jack Morris, Barry Larkin and others on that ballot.

"This is a great day for baseball and for Cubs fans everywhere," Commissioner Bud Selig said in a statement. "Ron was a staple of the Cubs' experience every single day for decades."

"I always admired Ron's cour-

age and loyalty, and I miss him very much," he said.

Jim Kaat was second with 10 votes, Gil Hodges and Minnie Minoso each drew nine and Tony Oliva got eight on the 10-person Golden Era ballot. Buzzie Bavasi, Ken Boyer, Charlie Finley, Allie Reynolds and Luis Tiant each received under three votes.

Santo never came close to election during his 15 times on the BBWAA ballot, peaking at 43 percent—far short of the needed 75 percent in his last year of eligibility in 1998.

Santo had gotten closer in previous elections by the Veterans Committee. The panel has been revamped several times in the last decade, aimed at giving a better look at deserving candidates.

Since his final swing in 1974, Santo's numbers on the field never changed. The perception of what he meant to the game did, though.

"From the discussion yesterday, we kind of got in depth," Williams said. "We really, really talked about each individual and some things were brought out, I imagine that wasn't brought out last time, in so far as what he'd done for the game of baseball, the \$60 million he raised for (juvenile diabetes research), all the other stuff we knew."

"This was the case of Ron Santo. We talked about it, we had good discussions on it and it happened," he said.

Saipan Little League organizational meeting on Dec. 12

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Saipan Little League Baseball Association, Inc. is calling on all managers, coaches, and volunteers for the 2012 season to attend a very important meeting on Monday, Dec. 12, 5:30pm at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Little League president Juan I. Tenorio and the 2012 board of directors will conduct the meeting and officials from all participating Major, Junior, Senior, and Big divisions are required to attend.

The purpose of the meeting is to inform those in attendance about how the organization is working to realign itself with current Little League Baseball regulations established by its head office in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

The board also plans to announce the passage of two of the recommendations suggested during the general membership/elections held back in October. Membership and volunteer forms will be passed out at the meeting as well.

All coaches, managers, and even parents that would like to help with some of the many fundraiser activities lined up for 2012 must fill out the forms,



In this file photo, Saipan Little League Baseball Inc. members take part in the general membership meeting/elections at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last October.

which will then be sent to the Little League Baseball headquarters in Williamsport. Little League Baseball mandates the submission of all forms. Background checks will also

Youth futsal league kicks off next week



The Saipan Soccer School's new youth futsal league will begin play on Dec. 15 and will last for three weeks until Jan. 8.

There will be three youth divisions—U18 Boys, U15 Boys, and U17 Girls. Teams are limited to four in each division and teams should provide jersey

numbers for easier identification of each player.

Due to a limitation of teams that can play in this league, registration deadline is on Dec. 13, 2011 and is on a first come, first serve basis.

Games will have two equal periods of 20 minutes, timeouts of 1 minute, and halftimes of 5 minutes. Saipan Soccer School emphasizes that all games

must always start on time and encourages coaches and support personnel to ensure that all team members are present and equipped to play.

There is a \$10 registration fee per player. Registration and waiver forms are available at the Saipan Soccer School office at the 2nd Floor JP Center or contact Mae Ito at 287-3607 for more information. (SSS)

sure that none hold any crimes involving youths.

Background checks are required, but cost money so the SLLBI will also discuss the possibility of membership fees in Monday's meeting.

Official sponsorship forms will also be passed out to coaches as they prepare their rosters for the 2012 season.

The two passed recommendations include extending the current one-year term for SLLBI officers to three years and establishing the election format for future SLLBI elections.

"It was not clear which members held voting's rights during this year's general election. The board members were registered when we voted on specific officer positions, but the general election never established who was allowed to vote for the board members in the first place. That may

have been the case this year, but we are taking the steps necessary to set a foundation and conduct proper elections from here on out," assured Tenorio in a phone interview Tuesday.

Tenorio also added, "I urge all of the parents to come to Monday's meeting as well. We have a number of fundraisers planned this season and it would be great if the parents come together and help out. I know we as board members need to improve upon stories of mismanagement over recent years, but increasing the level of parent involvement also plays a big role in making the SLLBI successful."

Tenorio said 36 teams in four divisions are expected to sign up for the 2012 season.

For more information, contact SLLBI president Juan I. Tenorio at 483-4836 or SLLBI secretary Peding Tenorio at 287-8091.

WUSHIN

From Page 28

Wushin's 23-15 advantage.

The lead started to go up to twin digits in the second quarter, as Saipan Boys kept on allowing Wushin easy baskets.

Art Salazar top-scored for the losing squad with 18, while Angelo Hernaez logged 12.

Blue Haus 73, 8th Division 64

Blue Haus also recorded its second win after outclassing 8th Division in the curtain raiser last Monday night.

Badong Camacho fired seven of his 13 points in the fourth quarter to lift Blue Haus to the nine-point win.

Blue Haus and 8th Division were in a deadlock after the third canto, 51-all, but the former saved the win after getting crucial baskets from Camacho and four others. Blue Haus out-scored 8th Division in the final canto, 22-13, returning the favor to the latter after the former was neutralized in the third frame.

8th Division managed to even up the match entering the fourth quarter despite falling behind

at halftime, 31-38, following a 20-point output in the third frame. Kae Bernardo led the rally in the third with his eight points, just five less than Blue Haus' total output in that period.

In the fourth quarter, Bernardo was held to one field goal and only two 8th Division players scored more than two field goal apiece, dropping the team's record to 1-3.

First Game

Blue Haus/Satbahi 73 – Abedes 17, Tania 16, B. Camacho 13, Itaas 8, E. Camacho 7, Mungcal 7, Sison 3, Fernandez 2.

8th Division 64 – Bernardo 16, Detera 16, Factor 12, Reyes 9, Jacob 6, Lansang 4.

Scoring by quarters: 22-18, 38-31, 51-51, 73-64.

Second Game

Wushin Express 86 – Guiab 24, Tabora 23, Tibayan 13, Santos 11, Villasan 7, De Jesus 2, Patawaran 2.

Saipan Boys 74 – Salazar 18, Hernaez 12, Jugos 9, Bautista 9, Buscutter 8, Quemado 6, Fernando 5, Borja 5, Guinto 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-15, 46-35, 64-53, 86-74.

RECORDS

From Page 28

Kaito submitted 1:19.26 to eclipse the 1:22.72 Winkfield established on April 25, 1993.

Kimura also broke one of the marks made in the 90s when he timed in at 2:20.25 in the boys 13 to 14 200m backstroke, passing the 2:23.01 David Palacios logged on Aug. 19, 1995.

Tan's record-swim came in the 200m breaststroke event, too. She posted 2:35.96 in the girls 11 to

12 age group, passing by about 22 seconds the record of Nina Mosley (2:57.02/April 27, 2002).

Tammy entered the CNMI record books for the first time after clocking in at 5:43.69 in the girls 9 to 10 400m freestyle race. She was more than four seconds faster than previous record-holder Amanda Johnson, who logged 5:47.72 in the same event on April 26, 2002.

"It was a big celebration for Tsunami, as Tammy became the second swimmer (Tan was the first one) from the club to

mark a CNMI age group record. Congratulations to Miku, Kaito, Ryuto, Kensuke, and Angel," Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said.

The Tsunami Saipan mentor added that breaking the records of CNMI top swimmers Mosley, Palacios, and Winkfield, was a huge achievement for his swimmers.

"We respect these swimmers. Mosley is a gold medalist in the Mini SPG and Micro Games. Winkfield and Palacios were the superstars during Bill Sakovich's

coaching time," Kimura said.

Former Tsunami Saipan president Stan Good echoed Kimura's thoughts.

"It is really satisfying to see the kids breaking these old records. I remembered when some of these records were made and how excited the kids were at that time. If we could contact the former swimmers I know they would be very excited and proud of the Tsunami swimmers. Before, we didn't think some of these records would be broken," Good said.

PAIRE

From Page 28

Gideon Borja and Michael Lee scored for Paire in the semi-finals with the former making it to the scoreboard first. Gideon found the back of the net 20 minutes into the first half for Paire's 1-0 halftime lead.

In the second half, Lee made back-to-back goals in a span of less than a minute. He had his first goal at the 08:02 mark, while the second one came 23 seconds later.

In the other semis tiff be-

tween MP United boys U12 and Matansa girls U15 squads, Moris Villanueva also canned twin goals to bring the former to the finals. Villanueva scored one goal each in the first and second half, while MP United's third goal was courtesy of Bada Lee.

Jace Pineda handed Matansa its lone goal in the match.

This year's FA Cup for the boys U12 and girls U15 teams featured nine squads that played in the fall league regular season for more than two months. Paire boys U12 was in Pool A with Tan Holdings U12, Shirley's

U12 and MP United and Shirley's FC girls U15 teams. Pool B has Matansa and MP United boys U12 squads and Tan Holdings, Paire, and Matansa U15 girls teams.

To make it all the way to the finals, Paire boys U12 notched three wins in Pool A. In started its FA Cup bid with a 4-0 thrashing of Tan Holdings FC U12. Then in the second round, Paire U12 was pitted against the top-seeded Shirley's FC U12 and nailed a similar 4-0 shutout win to advance to the semifinals.

MP United girls U15 eased its way into the semis in Pool A

after drawing a bye in the first round and then winning via forfeit over Shirley's FC girls U15.

Over at Pool B, MP United boys U12 drew Matansa boys U12 in the first round and won, 3-2, to make it to the second round against Tan Holdings FC girls U15. MP United boys U12 team was unstoppable in the second round, routing Tan Holdings female strikers, 9-0, to march into the semis against Matansa girls U15. Matansa's female strikers needed only one win to book a semis seat, beating Paire girls U15 on Nov. 26 via penalty shootout, 2-0.

TWO

From Page 28

Castro, and the rest of the Lucky Store family for supporting our Junior League champions," stated Nabors in an email on Sunday.

Lucky Quiang Mart provid-

ed uniforms for the team and was recently presented with the team trophy and a plaque of appreciation.

Nabors added, "I also want to thank Don Power, Felix Mankin, Jenifer Dela Cruz, Lalaine Dumdum, and everyone at FPA and Pacific & Power Builders, Inc. for all of their

contributions to the two-time major division champions in these tough economic times."

Nabors presented the businesses with the 2011 TLL Major League championship trophy and a special plaque of appreciation last week.

"I want to thank again Mr. Power, Leilani Manalo, Patrick

Cabrera, and the people at Tinian Ice & Water Bottling Company for their much needed services this year," added Nabors.

Nabors presented Tinian Ice & Water Bottling Co. with a special plaque of appreciation for donating over \$2,000 in products for the players to use during the 2011 season.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	3	0	.750	362	247
N.Y. Jets	7	5	0	.583	290	260
Buffalo	5	7	0	.417	278	304
Miami	4	8	0	.333	246	220

South

Houston	9	3	0	.750	310	189
Tennessee	7	5	0	.583	249	229
Jacksonville	3	9	0	.250	162	238
Indianapolis	0	12	0	.000	174	358

North

Baltimore	9	3	0	.750	296	192
Pittsburgh	9	3	0	.750	268	195
Cincinnati	7	5	0	.583	266	250
Cleveland	4	8	0	.333	175	240

West

Denver	7	5	0	.583	256	292
Oakland	7	5	0	.583	274	308
Kansas City	5	7	0	.417	163	268
San Diego	5	7	0	.417	287	299

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Dallas	7	5	0	.583	283	244
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N.Y. Giants	6	6	0	.500	287	315
Philadelphia	4	8	0	.333	271	282
Washington	4	8	0	.333	202	256

South

New Orleans	9	3	0	.750	393	269
Atlanta	7	5	0	.583	269	244
Carolina	4	8	0	.333	290	324
Tampa Bay	4	8	0	.333	218	329

North

x-Green Bay	12	0	0	1.000	420	262
Chicago	7	5	0	.583	271	242
Detroit	7	5	0	.583	333	277
Minnesota	2	10	0	.167	246	330

West

x-San Francisco	10	2	0	.833	288	161
Seattle	5	7	0	.417	216	246
Arizona	5	7	0	.417	232	269
St. Louis	2	10	0	.167	140	296

x-clinched division

YESTERDAY'S GAME

San Diego 38, Jacksonville 34

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5th Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The main pack pedals to a curve road at the old airport.



Nap Dizon celebrates at the finish line in San Antonio after placing first in the mountain bike division.



Russia's Danila Komkov stops near Mobil Kagman to fix a flat tire.



Bikers head to Koblerville during the first 25 kilometers of last Saturday's 5th Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.



A small group of riders in their colorful race jersey make their way to Laolao Bay.



Russia's Konstantin Fast leads the main pack up to Papago.



Korea's Joon Yong Seo negotiates the still unfinished road going to Kagman.



The lead pack pedal to an uphill course in San Roque.



Australia's John Anderson pulls away from the main peloton on the way up to As Matuis.



Butch Sublemente in his Philippine flag-inspired race jersey and shoes competes despite back problems.



Records surge for Tsunami Saipan swimmers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Records fell one after another during the Tsunami Swim Circuit Series 3 held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Tsunami Saipan's Lukas Kang, Ryuto Yanai, Miku Tammy, Kaito Yanai, Angel Marie Tan, and Kensuke Kimura all made it to the CNMI record books after combining for seven age group marks—the most posted in a single meet in years.

Kang crushed three records in the boys U18 age group with the first one in the 400m freestyle event where he timed in at 5:34.00 to surpass the 6:09.43 Kimura logged on Feb. 25, 2005. Ryuto Yanai was on the same race as Kang and former's 5:42.13 also bet-

tered Kimura's mark.

The 8-year-old Kang's second age group mark came from the 100m breaststroke event after he clocked in at 1:38.22, chopping off more than two seconds from his previous mark (1:40.77/April 16, 2011).

In the 50m backstroke, Kang also reset his previous record (40.82 seconds/April 16, 2011), tallying 39.24 seconds in last Saturday's competition.

Ryuto's older brother, Kaito, shattered the 18-year mark of Jacoby Winkfield in the boys 9 to 10 100m breaststroke swim.



See RECORDS on Page 26



Paire vs MP United in FA Cup finals



Paire boys U12's John Auther is seen here stopping the ball during their first round game against Tan Holdings FC in the FA Cup at the Hopwood Junior High School Field. Paire advanced to the finals against MP United U12 after beating MP United girls U15 last Monday, 3-0.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Paire boys U12 and MP United boys U12 arranged their championship duel in the 2011 NMFIFA Boys and Girls FA Cup following separate semis wins last Monday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Paire was paired against MP United girls U15 in Pool A semis and eased its way to a shutout win, 3-0, while MP United boys U12 downed Matansa girls U15 in Pool B semis tiff, 3-1. Paire and MP United boys U12 teams will slug it out in the winner-take-all finals this Saturday at 1pm at the Hopwood pitch.

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Two Tinian Little League teams give back

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Tinian Little League and Typhoon Sports Organization's

Keith Nabors would like to thank all his sponsors for their support during the 2011 season.

Nabors' Junior League Typhoons finished the 2011 season undefeated in 14 games en route to winning the TLL championship.

Nabor's Major League Ty-



phoons, meanwhile, clinched back-to-back titles this year while going on a 35-game winning streak dating all the way back from 2009.

"I want to thank Lucky Qiang Mart's Lin Castro as well as Lin Jin Cai, Huang Chao, Bruce

See TWO on Page 26

Tinian Little League Typhoons' Keith Nabors, right, presents, from left, FPA secretary Lalaine Dumdum, FPA executive assistant Jennifer Dela Cruz, and PBI chief engineer Felix Makin with the 2011 Major League championship trophy and a plaque of appreciation on Tinian last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wushin, Blue Haus record win No. 2

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Wushin Express cruised to its second win after dominating Saipan Boys, 86-74, during their game in the 2011 DLX Basketball Invitational Friendship League last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Wushin capitalized on Saipan Boys' depleted crew at the start of the match to establish a comfortable lead and protected the double-digit advantage in the next three quarters en route to the 12-point victory.

Saipan Boys had only seven players in the first half and by the time two more came in the second half, Wushin was already in full control of the match, handing its foes its third loss in as many games.

Junar Guiab paced Wushin with 24 points, Jun Tabora added 13, and Roderick Tibayan and Edwin Santos chipped in 13 and 11, respectively.

Guiab drilled 10 of his total points in the opening period, as no Saipan Boys player was beefed enough to push the Wushin forward out of the paint. Tabora contributed seven in the first, walking away with fastbreak layups for

See WUSHIN on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Wushin Express' Junar Guiab pulls up for a baseline jumper during the second game in the DLX caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.